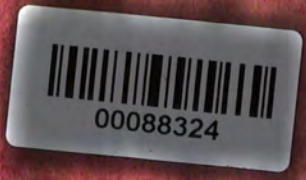
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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.
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NORWAY,

AND HER LAPLANDERS,

IN 1841.

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NORWAY,

AND HER LAPLANDERS,

IN 1841:

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WITH

A FEW HINTS TO THE SALMON FISHER.

BY

JOHN MILFORD,

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE;

AUTHOR OF "OBSERVATIONS ON ITALY," "PENINSULAR SKETCHES," ETC.

ya c 3

"Of hill and valley, rivers, woods and plains:
Now land, now sea, and shores with forests crown'd,
Rocks, dens, and caves!"—MILTON, B. xi. l. 116.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY BOMBAY BRANCH

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

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TO

WILLIAM NATION, ESQ.,

THESE PAGES ARE DEDICATED,

WITH EVERY FEELING OF REGARD AND ESTEEM,

BY

HIS OLD FRIEND AND FELLOW COLLEGIAN,

JOHN MILFORD.

Craver, Exeter,
Aug. 1842.

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NORWAY AND ITS LAPPS.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction.—Leave Hull.— Sea-sickness.—Light-house.— Rocky coast.— Arrive at Christiansand.— Mr. Peter Frellsen.—Appearance of the streets.— Honesty of the Norwegians.— Wooden houses.— Commodious inn.— Mr. March the English consul.— Desolate appearance of the streets.— Theatre.— Shakspere in Norway.— Start for Vigeland.— Companions.— Our equipages.— Beautiful scenery.— Wild fruits,— The Hel Foss.— Timber floats.— Hay-making.— Anti-teetotalists.— Vigeland.— Unsuccessful fishing.— Salmon traps.— Vinesland.— Peasant's hut.— Luxurious dinner.— Saw-mills at Vigeland.— Norwegian hospitality.— Snow-ploughs.— Mode of clearing the roads.— Return to Christiansand.

THE motives which induced me to undertake an excursion into Norway, the details of which are given in the following narrative, were of a private and painful nature.

A heavy sorrow, which had preyed on mind and body, had clouded my home with recollections of unhappiness; and I was anxious by change of scene, and the excitement of travelling, to divert my thoughts from their sad channel, and by constant exercise to re-invigorate my shattered nerves, and unstrung frame: I selected Norway as partaking more of nature fresh and unsophisticated, than those polished and luxurious countries which are more usually resorted to. The travels of my early youth had led me towards the sunny regions of the south, to Spain, Portugal, and Italy; I now turned towards the hardy bracing north, in the expectation of finding a perfect contrast, both in the country and its inhabitants, to all I had hitherto seen.

I sought the mountain, and the cataract, the river and the fiord; nor did I omit to take with me my fishing-tackle, hoping to find in the gentle pursuit of honest Izaac Walton additional motives for wandering through the fresh meadows, and amid those

grand and lonely scenes in which I knew that Norway abounded.

My son, who in a few months was to commence his career at Cambridge, was my companion. Pleasure, instruction, and health would, I felt convinced, result to him from being associated with me in this excursion.

We left Hull on Saturday the 24th of July, and anchored in the harbour of Christiansand, nearly the southernmost point of Norway, at two o'clock on the morning of Tuesday the 27th, after a passage of sixty-two hours, about ten above the usual average, the wind having been unfavourable. There was not much of it until the last night, when a stiff breeze arose, and I experienced much more of the swell of the north sea than was agreeable to so bad a sailor. I remained in my berth fifty-six hours out of the sixty-two, and scarcely took any nourishment. Sea-sickness is, however, the best of all physic for those

constitutions which have strength to endure it. The lighthouse, situated on a rock close to the water, and washed by the rolling floods of the German ocean, was distinctly seen for some hours before our arrival, and the first sight of it greatly rejoiced me as I lay tossing and rolling in my berth. The land which we first made in Norway was not so bold as I had been led to expect, less grand certainly than the north of Spain, where the Gallician mountains, like dark clouds, bound the horizon. The coast was, however, strikingly beautiful, being indented with bays, and fringed with small rocky islands, and was picturesque, although bare of vegetation. We could not have beheld this coast at a more favourable moment than during that twilight which immediately precedes sunrise. It was as clear as mid-day, without any glare, soft and beautiful, leaving such an impression on the mind as can never be effaced.

Till you immediately come upon it, Christiansand is concealed from the view by a

projecting rock. Shortly after entering the fiord (frith or loch) the water becomes quite smooth and glassy. The land-locked harbour in front of the town, which is surrounded by hills partially covered with pines and stunted birch trees, has a *very* pleasing appearance. We rowed on shore, and had no sooner set foot upon land before Mr. Peter Frellsen, the landlord of the inn to which we had been recommended, shook us cordially by the hand, and bade us welcome to old Norway (Gammel Norge). As we walked to the inn through the wide and ill-paved streets we were struck at observing many of the windows of the ground-floor wide open, as they had evidently been all night, and close to one of them was a writing-desk and several smaller articles, which could with perfect ease have been taken away by any person passing by; a strong proof of that honesty for which the Norwegians are so remarkable.

Several magpies were flying about, and settling on the roofs of the houses, as tame

and impudent as a smoked London sparrow. These birds are respected here, as the stork is in catholic countries.

The houses are built entirely of wood, except that in some cases the foundation is of stone; and most of them have a neat appearance, being kept clean, and well painted: this is the case particularly with the custom house and other public buildings.

The accommodations we found at the inn were very tolerable, the proprietor having been in England, and consequently acquainted with the tastes of our countrymen. He is an obliging and respectable old man, although the charges upon our first landing were higher than we expect to find them as we advance into the interior.

We paid our respects to the English consul, Mr. Murch, an old Norwegian, who spoke our language well, although it was fifty years since he had been in Great Britain.

The streets of Christiansand run at right angles to each other; they are of immense length, in consequence of the numerous gardens which intervene between the houses, and have a desolate appearance, few pedestrians being seen, and never more than one or two carrioles, drawn by one horse, passing at the same time. In short, I should say this must be a dull town, although the inhabitants have a theatre to enliven them, in which a company of Danish actors were now playing one of our immortal Shakspere's tragedies, translated into Norse.

On Wednesday, 28th July, we set out at nine for Vigeland, a distance of ten miles (English), in the hope of getting a little fishing, as the steamer does not start for Christiania till the 30th. Our two countrymen, Captain L—— and Mr. Charles R——, who had been our fellow-passengers from Hull, accompanied us. We travelled in two carrioles, drawn by excellent cream-coloured Norse ponies. The man sat

behind, whilst I drove, armed with an English whip. Our friends at home would have been amused at the appearance of our rude equipages. There is a finely wooded pass along the side of the river; the rocks are clothed with Scotch fir (*pinus sylvestris*), and every now and then bold masses of granite appear through the foliage, with occasional farm-houses, meadows, and plantations of oak, ash, poplar, willow, alder, and birch on all sides. The wild plants by the side of the road were most of them of the same classes as those in England; and amongst them were the small campanula, chickweed, millfoil, with rich patches of the larger species of St. John's wort. The woods were full of bilberries, wortle-berries, wild strawberries, and raspberries, all at maturity.

Finding the weather too bright for fishing in the middle of the day, we strolled for two miles to the Hel Foss*, a boiling

* Waterfall.

abyss, where we first saw the timber descending the rapids. A few yards below the fall the river was blocked up by a quantity of timber, under which, however, a passage was kept by the stream. It was curious to watch a tree float gradually down the river, descend the tremendous foss, dive under the obstruction, and come out on the other side. Men have to get from the banks upon those floating trees, in order to clear the channel, and send the timber to its destination. To accomplish this they clamber down naked and almost perpendicular rocks, and are provided with a long pole with a spike at one end of it.

The peasantry were busily engaged in saving their hay, and during the heat of the mid-day sun I saw no less than twenty females enter the house of their employer, who, by way of restorative, gave each of them a glass of finkel*, and this, which is repeated in the evening, he informed me,

* Spirit distilled from corn and potatoes.

they prefer to every thing else. As we proceeded on our journey, I afterwards saw the manufacture of this liquid fire at several of the post-houses where we changed horses.

We slept at Vigeland, in a small cottage, and were lulled to sleep by the noise of the neighbouring waterfall. Rising the next morning at half past three, we fished for some hours before breakfast, but there was something ungenial in the weather, and from this or from some other cause the salmon would not rise; neither do I believe the fishing here to be very good, as the pool does not extend for more than a quarter of a mile, and the river is netted every evening. The salmon, when taken, are put into a trap, and kept ready for sale. Eighty pounds were sent from hence to Christiansand on the day of our arrival. My son killed one salmon of four pounds, and missed a much heavier fish, from being a tyro in the art, and striking too hard, in consequence of which he lost his fly and part of his line; he also took a trout of a

pound and a half. I was less fortunate, and could only boast of a rise from one salmon. I however killed a few small trout in a lake formed by the river Ottran, upon which we rowed for a couple of hours. These fish are of the same dark colour as the water. At one extremity of this lake is another small village, called Vinesland, with a diminitive wooden church. We entered the wretched dwelling of one of the peasants, from whence the smoke was escaping through a large chimney at the top. We returned to Vigeland, and dined on a good-sized and well-flavoured trout. The rye-bread was so sour that I could not eat it, but the coffee and eggs, with the wild strawberries, raspberries, and cream, were delicious.

The property at Vigeland belongs to a company, who have here several saw-mills. The wheel which moves the saw is of course turned by water, and the apparatus is very simple ; there are six double and two single wheels, and twenty-two saws altogether.

When any timber is wanted, the agent writes up the country for it, and in the course of a week it is floated down the river, with the owner's mark upon it. It is stopped close to the mill, where it is placed on wheels, and pushed up to the saws; the two sides are first cut off, so as to form a slab of the tree; this is then cut into planks, which are sent down an inclined plane, and at the bottom, either arranged, and exposed to the wind, or sent floating down the stream to another station: all the outside slices are thrown away. The agent, who resided on the spot, spoke English, and the civility of the female who had the management of the household affairs was very striking. Here we had the first instance of Norwegian hospitality, for after we had all partaken plentifully of the good things I have enumerated, the worthy lady refused to accept any remuneration whatever. We, however, at length insisted upon her taking a small coin of the value of a shilling from each of us, for which she was very grateful. Her sister was remark-

able for the beauty both of her face and figure, and would have been considered a fine woman in any country. This day we met with masses of the spruce (*pinus abies*) fir, which we had not seen before, and also observed by the side of the road several *wooden* milestones and snow-ploughs. The latter are made of boards, and form a triangle, with which the snow is cleared away in winter; each farmer having charge of a certain portion of road, and being bound to keep open the communication.

In the evening we returned to Christiansand by water, having hired a boat for the purpose. We performed the distance in about two hours, although the river was in some parts so full of floating timber as greatly to impede our passage.

CHAPTER II.

Start for Christiania. — Steam-boat. — Lillesand. — Grimstad. — Accident to an English angler. — Arendal. — Calamitous fire. — Romantic scenery. — Oster Risoer. — Juvenile sailors. — Kragerve. — Narrow channel. — A finish. — Norwegian nobles. — Baron Vedel. — Fredericksvarn. — Naval school. — Laurwig. — Lobsters. — Sannesund. — Large village. — Saltworks at Vallen. — Steam-boat travellers. — Sporting agent. — Norwegian hawks. — Mode of capturing them. — Hawking club in Holland. — Arrive at Christiania. — Large trade in deals. — University. — Appearance of the town. — Palace of the Crown Prince. — Tardy supplies. — Table d'hôte. — Wood the staple produce of Norway. — Skill of the native carpenters. Effects of the new tariff. — Hardiness of the pine. — Majestic foliage.

On Friday the 30th July we left Christiansand for Christiania in a well-appointed steamer, the *Constitucion*. Every thing on board was admirably arranged and beautifully clean, the wines, Sauterne and

St. Julien, 2*s.* 6*d.* a bottle, were excellent, the dinner well dressed in the French style, and the captain speaking that language. Soon after starting, as we were passing close along the coast, I saw a seal, which I took for a porpoise, until it lifted its dog-like head above the water. This is a very intricate navigation. We had a Swedish pilot on board, and sailed between numerous islands, with sunken rocks on each side of us, over which the sea was breaking. The steamer calls at a number of small places for passengers, and anchors in some snug harbour every night. You can sleep either on board or on shore. The first place at which we stopped was Lillesand, which stands in a creek sheltered from every wind. There were two or three trading vessels at anchor. On several of the rocks by which we passed I remarked a few small cottages, and every now and then a patch of vegetation.

These steamers, so convenient for the tourist, were established thirteen years

since. They only run during the summer months, and I was informed that they do not as yet answer. The charge for each person from Christiansand to Christiania is about thirty shillings; this includes his luggage, but not his provisions.* You may now go from Hamburgh almost to the icy cape, at least as far as Hammerfest, by steam. Grimstad, with its snug little harbour, containing a few small craft, was the second village at which we called. Brooms appear just above the water to point out the zigzag course the vessel must pursue, in order to avoid the many Scyllas and Charybdisses in her way.

About a fortnight ago, an English gentleman named L——s, killed thirty-seven salmon in one day, at a place about ten miles from Christiansand, belonging to a

* A parent and child only pay one and a half fare by this steamer. In many parts of Norway they have this custom of charging two or more members of the same family less than the same number of other persons; thus, two pay for one and a half, four for three, and so on.

lady, the niece of the English consul, who only gives permission to fish to persons particularly introduced to her. Mr. L—— having hooked a large salmon, in playing him unfortunately fell over a rock, and dislocated his shoulder, and was compelled in consequence of the accident to return by the steamer to England.

Arendal is the largest and prettiest town we halted at, and here many of our passengers landed. The arrival of the steamer caused much activity, and well-dressed females were seen at every window. There is some little trade at this place, there being iron mines in its neighbourhood. A year since Arendal was much injured by fire, one half of the town being consumed, but it is already rebuilt. It contains several large houses, one in particular, belonging to a gentleman who has also a pretty country seat at the entrance of the harbour. The theatre (for this seems to be considered as a necessary appendage to most towns in Norway) is a prominent wooden building

close to the quay, with a figure of one of the muses over the façade.

On leaving Arendal our course for seven miles was up a kind of lake, with well wooded and rocky islands on each side. Some of the country houses belonging to the inhabitants of the town are beautifully situated.

One of the passengers on board our steamer was the son of Mr. Murch. He spoke French well, and likewise a little English, and from this intelligent and well-informed gentleman I obtained much local knowledge during the voyage. As I paced the deck I greatly admired the clearness of the sea, filled with myriads of asteriæ, echini, and other mollusca of a scarlet colour.

We next anchored in the harbour of the small town of Oster Risoer, which is very prettily situated, and slept on shore, having found clean beds and good accommodation.

Most of the passengers, however, remained on board. About seven English miles from hence there are some iron works, and much of the ore is exported to Hull. This is also a great fishing-place, which our olfactory nerves soon discovered, as we passed through its narrow and ill-paved streets. In the harbour we observed several children, not more than eight years of age, rambling about in their canoe-shaped little boats, thus early acquiring that taste for a seafaring life for which the Norwegians are so remarkable. The point of the highest rock is washed with lime as a landmark, and seen at a considerable distance from the sea. We all agreed that the inhabitants were a very good-looking race; amongst the better class of females, especially, there were several very pretty faces.

On the 31st July we again started at six A.M., and the first place where we took in passengers was Kragerve. The coast is flatter and less striking for a short distance, till the rocks at length approach so near,

and the channel becomes so narrow, as to leave only sufficient space for the passage of the vessel. The skilful Swedish pilot on board stood on a plank between the paddles, and by a wave of his hand directed the steersman.

We had a capital breakfast of beefsteaks, after partaking plentifully of which I observed a Norwegian gentleman drink a bottle of porter and a glass of brandy, by way of finish.

The second officer on board was the son of a Norse baron. There are only three barons left in Norway, and these will be the last of their race, as in 1814 the orders of nobility were annulled, and the law of primogeniture abolished. At Brevig, where we next stopped for a few minutes, we saw one of these few remaining nobles, Baron Vedel, a fine-looking man of about sixty. He holds a situation under government, as director of the customs, worth from between £300 and £400 sterling per annum, being

one of the best appointments in this poor country; he also possesses some landed property. His brother was a count, and recently governor of Norway. On his death, last year, at the baths of Wis Baden, the king sent a steamer to bring his corpse for sepulture to his native country. "Baron Vedel," said Mr. Murch, "is somewhat exposed to ridicule here, as we do not approve of orders of nobility."

At one we anchored at Fredericksvarn, a Norwegian fort, and a training school for the navy. Some of the young mids came on board our steamer from a Swedish corvette, now in the harbour; and many others, I was informed, were cruising in the coast, acquiring a practical knowledge of navigation.

As we had to wait four hours for the arrival of the other steamer which plys between this place and Christiania, we landed, and hiring two carrioles, drove for about five miles to the fishing town of

Laurwig, from whence more lobsters are sent to England than from any other port in Norway; several thousand are forwarded at a time to the London market, and are kept alive in the wells of boats containing salt water, and constructed for the purpose.

The road between Fredericksvarn and Laurwig is excellent, and the variety of wood and pasture ground reminded us of England. The beech, oak, alder, mountain ash, and spruce grow here, but do not arrive at any great size, in consequence of being so near the sea.

At six P.M. we proceeded in another steamer about twenty miles farther along the coast, and reached Sannesund at eight, where we slept, in one of the four houses of which this hamlet consists; three of these belong to pilots, and the fourth to an innkeeper, who, fortunately for us, had recently made an addition to his log-house, and we were among the first occupants of his new rooms. The beds were

clean, and the people very civil and attentive. After a few hours sound sleep, we rose about three, and before four o'clock on Sunday the 1st of August sailed for Christiania, having already entered its fiord, which is seventy miles in length, and one of the most beautiful in Norway, enclosed with woods and rocks, and studded with islands. We passed by some extensive salt-works at Valleu, on our left. The salt is extracted from sea-water, and afterwards mixed with imported rock-salt.

Numerous passengers came on board at the different places of call, and our steamer, the *Carl Johan*, very inferior in cleanliness to the *Constitucion*, which we had quitted yesterday, was greatly crowded. I have strong objections to travelling on the sabbath, but under the present arrangement of the steamers it is difficult in this country to avoid doing so occasionally.

How curious are the characters and how various the professions of those persons

whom you meet with on board a steam-vessel! How different are the objects which they have in view! A man has just entered into conversation with me who has been sent by Prince Alexander, the second son of the King of Holland, the Duke of Leeds and several other Englishmen fond of hawking, a distance of 700 or 800 miles, to Jerkin, on the Dovre fæil, for the sole purpose of capturing some Norwegian hawks. He told me he should remain at the last-mentioned spot for a month, and expected to catch about half a dozen of these birds. He was taking some live pigeons with him for this purpose, all the way from Amsterdam to the highest mountain pass in Norway. His method is to build a shed in a wild situation, in which he may conceal himself, and then to confine a pigeon to the ground close to an expanded net; the hawk is attracted to the spot, and easily captured. This person had been for twenty years falconer to Lord Bernard, and had lived in Suffolk, but was now employed by a hawking society in Holland.

I saw the list of the members. They meet during the months of April, May, June, and part of July of every year. Amongst the names were those of many both of the Dutch and English nobility.

After calling at Hamestrand and Drobak, on opposite sides of the fiord, which here forms a noble expanse of water, we arrived at Christiania. This is the most modern of the four capitals of Norway, and is a fine town, with wide streets and lofty houses, most of them built of stone, and with great regularity. The harbour is excellent, and the trade extensive, this being the great mart for deals, the superiority of which over those of other countries is said to consist, how truly I know not, more in the mode of sawing than in the quality of the timber. At one time the commerce in this article was so large that one merchant alone, Bernard Ancker, exported to the value of £180,000 a year. Christiania contains an university, founded in 1811, where there are several hundred students; and the

town being the seat of government, several of its buildings are on a large scale. Its general appearance, however, is gloomy, and I passed through many streets without meeting with any description of vehicle, and scarcely half a dozen people. The number of its inhabitants, nevertheless, exceeds 12,000.

Just before we cast our anchor at the extremity of the fiord, we saw on our left, and very near the town, the new palace for the Crown Prince, now in course of erection. It is a long time since the building was commenced, and it is not expected to be completed for ten years to come, the progress of the work entirely depending on the supplies voted by the storthing, which are few and far between. It as yet presents little more than bare walls, but it is calculated that before it is completed it will cost upwards of a quarter of a million sterling. The situation is beautiful, commanding an extensive view of the splendid fiord, and backed by high mountains. It

is said the Viceroy will eventually take up his residence in this capital, but he will have to wait a long time before his palace is in a fit state for his reception.

The Hotel du Nord was the best inn that we had met with, and we dined at its table d'hote with sixty or seventy other persons, some belonging to the town, and the rest travellers like ourselves.

Wood seems to be the staple produce of the land, the source of its well-being at home and of its commerce abroad. The Norwegians, as might be expected, are admirable carpenters; practice has made them perfect, and they have rendered the material subservient to every possible purpose, with an ingenuity that is astonishing.

The recent alteration in the tariff, which has long been advocated by the most enlightened political economists of every party, will give an impetus to the lan-

guishing trade of Christiania, and draw closer the bonds of unity between Norway and Great Britain. The Norwegians are already well disposed to like us, and to look with a sort of paternal pride and affection upon a nation which, once peopled by themselves, has now risen to be the leader of civilisation, and to be victorious alike by sea and by land. Their great object is (saving the pun) to *deal* with us, to supply us with their raw produce, which is superabundant and excellent, and to take back in return our manufactures, which are equally cheap and good, and in which they are utterly deficient. It is impossible to predict the mutual advantages which will arise from this wise and liberal measure. Norway, indeed, will benefit the most, because she has the most lee-way to make up, being to a certain degree uncivilised. Now that our ports are again to be opened, commerce will revive, and in her train assuredly will come industry, order, and wealth; then will follow luxury, artistical and literary attainment, and all the highest

ranges of social and intellectual development.

The Norwegian pines are the weed of the soil, they grow on almost soil-less crags ("moored in the rifted rock"), and planted by the hand of nature, where none but nature could dare to place them, and where nothing but nature's aid could support them. Their dark tone of colour is in harmony with the scenery around, while their elfin branches, flung over the cataract, form the appropriate fringes to scenes which recal the witch and demon glens of the Freyschutz.

CHAPTER III.

Start for Tronjeim. — Our carrioles. — Posting in Norway. — Necessity of an avant-courier. — Force of finkel. — Norse ponies. — French barouche. — Lake Myosen. — High state of cultivation in the province of Aggerhuus. — Rapidity of vegetation, — River Laur. — Sylvan scenery. — Malthus. — Strength of the country for defence. — Kringelen defile. — Destruction of Colonel Sinclair and 900 Scots. — Cruel perfidy. — Norwegian post-houses. — Difficulty of obtaining provisions. — Supposed pleasures of "roughing it." — Change of carriages. — Dangerous roads. — Narrow escape. — Largaard. — The Viceroy of Norway. — Mountain pass. — Polite beggar-boy. — Reach Jerkin. — Change of climate. — Abundance of game. — Height of the mountains. — A hilly stage to Konsvold. — Slow work with the barouche. — Golden plovers. — Inns. — Iron, copper, and silver mines.

THE distance between Christiania and Tronjeim is about 350 English miles. We purchased carrioles, which, together with the harness, cost £4 each. They are little

vehicles with low wheels, very convenient and snug, being just large enough to hold one person, whose feet rest against the cross bar, whilst his legs are protected by a large leathern apron. These light carriages are tolerably easy, for although they have no springs there is much play in the shafts; there is, however, no covering, which is a somewhat awkward circumstance in case of rain, but they are solely intended for summer travelling. The only place for your luggage being upon the board behind, the less you encumber yourself with the better, particularly as upon it the proprietor of the horse occasionally takes his seat, and in more than one instance the contents of my carpet-bag were wofully crushed in consequence.

We proceeded on our journey, travelling post, the horses being provided by the landed proprietors of the country (bonder), at the rate of about a shilling a Norse mile (seven English miles) for each animal, which is about the same expence at which you can

travel in England by a public conveyance. Each carriole is drawn by one horse, and you are obliged to send on a forebud, or avant-courier, in a cart, ten or twelve hours before you start, to carry your additional luggage, and to have the horses, which are fetched from the plough or from other work, in readiness by the time of your arrival; but you frequently overtake this functionary, in consequence of the temptation which finkel offers to him at every post-house; and although a book is kept for the purpose of making known to the proper authorities any complaint either of incivility or delay, the traveller passes on, and seldom avails himself of such an uncertain mode of redress. The duty of the forebud is to leave a printed ticket at each post station, informing the proprietor when you may be expected to arrive, and what number of horses you require. For the trouble of sending to the farmer for these animals the said proprietor is allowed a fixed charge of four skillings (about twopence), which is called order money, and you have also to pay him a few more skil-

lings for every hour you are after your time.

The little horses are stiff built, well made, full of spirit, very fast, and sure-footed, and on level ground go at a good rate; the roads, however, although well kept, are generally so hilly that, including stoppages (each change occupies twenty minutes), we never went more than from five to six miles in the hour.

These Norse ponies, some of the hardiest and best bred in Europe, are frequently exported to England. We saw a beautiful pair on board the steamer at Christiansand, which had been purchased by Sir Hyde Parker for about £20. They would answer well for a low phaeton, or to ride shooting; but I was informed their hoofs are apt to crack upon our hard roads.

We were much pleased with the independence and convenience of carriole travelling. Our countryman, Mr. S., joined our party in his French barouche, and the tout ensemble

of our cavalcade, as we drove through Christiania, would have afforded a good subject for a comic pencil.

About seventy-five miles from Christiania you cross the river Vormen by a ferry at Minde, where the Lake Myosen (Miosen Soe) commences. It is a fine sheet of water, in the province of Aggerhuus (or Christiania), nearly sixty English miles in length andeight in breadth, with splendid scenery on its borders, and the land around it is considered to be in a higher state of cultivation than in any other part of Norway, producing barley and oats in abundance. So rapidly does the corn grow during the intense heat of their short summer, aided by the reverberation of the sun's rays from the sides of the mountains, that the grain is fit to reap in a few weeks after sowing, and they frequently have two crops in a season.

A little steam-boat now plies between the two extremities of this lake every

three weeks during the summer months. The days of its starting are published in the newspapers at Christiania, for the convenience of travellers. We saw it on the Vormen.

As we drove along by the water's edge the landscape was strikingly beautiful. We next passed through Lillehammer, the only town between the two capitals, Christiania and Tronjeim, and that a very small one, consisting of a single street.

We now followed the banks of the river Laur, a boiling torrent rushing over its rocky bed, and growing more and more impetuous in its course, with high perpendicular mountains on each side, clothed with lofty pines, the monotony of which is relieved by the ash, weeping birch, and aspen,—

"A sylvan scene: and as the ranks ascend
Shade above shade, a woody theatre
Of stateliest view ——
Luxuriant, meanwhile murmuring waters fall
Down the slope hills, dispersed, or in a lake
Unite their streams." *Par. Lost.*

Such wildly picturesque scenes as these fill the mind with admiration at the inexhaustible wonders of creation.

This valley of Gulbrandsdale extends for nearly thirty Norse miles, and its numerous and varied beauties are highly extolled by travellers, and many have considered them equal to the sublime and majestic scenery of the Swiss Alps and of the Pyrennees; but I cannot admit that any part of Norway merits to be compared with those stupendous regions, where, on a far grander scale than anywhere else, man beholds with religious awe and astonishment the works of his Creator.

"The mountains of Norway are in general not habitable. The only peopled parts of the country are the vallies. Many of these vallies are deep and narrow clefts in the mountains, and the cultivated spots in the bottom are surrounded by almost perpendicular cliffs of a prodigious height. Some of these vallies are strikingly pic-

turesque. The principal road from Chris tiania to Tronjeim leads for nearly 180 miles through a continued valley of this kind, by the side of a very fine river, which in one part stretches out into the extensive Lake Myosen. I am inclined to believe that there is not any river in all Europe the course of which affords such a constant succession of beautiful and romantic scenery. It goes under different names in different parts. The verdure in the Norway vallies is peculiarly soft, the foliage of the trees luxuriant, and in summer no traces appear of a northern climate." *

Such is the nature of the country of Norway, says an intelligent writer, that by the pre-occupation of different passes the destruction of an invading army is frequently almost inevitable. Bodies of regular troops have been more than once destroyed in some of these passes by the peasantry.

* Malthus.

In the midst of this rudely sublime mountainous scenery, at a celebrated defile called Kringelen, Colonel Sinclair and 900 Scotchmen were slaughtered in the year 1612. In this neighbourhood was Sinclair's grave, pointed out by a tablet destroyed by the floods in 1789, and afterwards restored by the boors, A. Viberg and N. Viig. On it was this inscription: "Here lies Colonel Sinclair, who, with 900 Scotchmen, was dashed to pieces, 'like earthen pots,' by 300 boors of Lessoe, Vaage, and Froen. Berden Segelstadt of Ringeboe was the leader of the boors." Sinclair fell at the narrow pass of Kringelen. The road was narrow, and cut out of the solid rock, and overhung the steep and precipitous banks of the river, which rushed along the bottom. Sinclair had nowhere met with any opposition, for almost all the youth of the country had been drawn to the Swedish war in the south of Norway. He had no suspicion of any attack here, and carelessly pursued his way. The boors, with great address, proceeded unperceived over the rocks, and

dexterously detached a small division to the opposite side of the river, which made its appearance over against the Scots on a large meadow, and with considerable irregularity kept firing on their enemy below. The Scots dispersed this ineffectual attack, and passed on, but their attention was, however, directed to the meadow on the opposite side of the river. The boors suddenly made their appearance on the rocks in every direction; they closed up every avenue of advance; they prevented every means of retreat. Sinclair fell in the foremost ranks, and the rest were dashed to pieces like earthen pots. And thus let the enemy and the world learn what Norwegian valour, firmness, and fidelity are capable of in their native rocks. About sixty of the Scots interceded for life, and were taken prisoners. They divided them among the hamlets, but they forgot that prisoners are no longer enemies; they soon grew tired of feeding an enemy, and the defenceless Scots were collected together in a large

meadow, and murdered in cold blood. Only one escaped.

But how came the Scots into Norway, and to penetrate so far into the Norwegian mountains? In consequence of a plan, which, as experience has shown, was of too bold a conception.

King Gustavus Adolphus, in his first unsuccessful war with Christian the Fourth, despatched Colonel Munckhaven, in the spring of 1612, to enlist men in the Netherlands and in Scotland. Colonel Sinclair landed at Romsdalen. He had already proceeded many miles through Romsdalen, Lessoe, and down the valley below Dovre fiæl, and might well believe the Swedish frontiers at hand, when he was destroyed by the circumspect and daring attack of the boors in Kringelen.

> " Sinclair came over the salt sea,
> " To storm the cliffs of Norway."
>
> Von Buch.

We rested for a few hours at night, on the average not more than four or five, at the post-houses, which generally stand quite alone, and which, both in external appearance and in internal accommodation, are about on a par with the posadas I had been accustomed to in Spain and Portugal. You generally find one large comfortless room, the whole furniture of which consists of a table, a few chairs, and a couple of beds, and in this you both eat and sleep, if not prevented from enjoying "tired nature's calm restorer" by fleas, musquitoes, bugs, et hoc genus omne of annoyances, with the addition of an infinity of villainous smells, arising from the dirty habits of the people, and but partially counteracted by the strong odour of the tops of the spruce and juniper, which are spread over the floor of every cottage in Norway, for the purpose of keeping it clean.

Wo be to the English traveller who does not bring some portable soup and good biscuit with him for this journey, or indeed

for any other which he may make in Norway, even from one capital to another. The keen northern air and the hard exercise will sharpen his appetite, but he will find nothing to satisfy it, excepting such unsubstantial food as eggs and coffee. The former you can generally get; the latter always, even in the smallest cottages, but you must wait, although half starving, for a full half hour after your arrival before you can procure even this, for it has first to be roasted, then ground, and afterwards boiled. Now and then we had the additional luxury of bad bacon, for the Norwegian pigs resemble " des anatomies vivantes."

Those who travel over maps in their own comfortable study at home, and then set forth, under the pleasing delusion, that foreign journeyings are productive of nothing but comfort and delight, should not visit Norway, for it will stagger their passion for adventures; but, by others who are less fastidious, this occasional roughing

is soon forgotten in the excitement and admiration which a new country and noble scenery produce. These temporary difficulties are of advantage also, as teaching us doubly to appreciate the comforts of home when we return to them again. We travelled occasionally in Mr. S.'s barouche, lending him and his friend our carrioles, by way of variety; but going down such tremendous hills was a trial to the nerves, as this French carriage was not at all suited to such a country as Norway. We continued our journey all night, having been much delayed from many a loose screw in its ponderous fabric. I must confess that I by no means relished the danger we ran during this night, the road winding round a mountain, with a frightful yawning abyss on one side, and of a width only just sufficient to admit the large and heavy barouche, probably the first of the kind that had ever passed over it. In descending some of the most precipitous hills, I deemed "discretion the better part of valour," and jumped out, and our courier and the other

attendant had much difficulty in preventing the ponderous carriage from tumbling into the river. On one occasion, notwithstanding all their exertions, it fairly mastered them, and ran back; but fortunately a bank prevented its going the whole way down the hill. These adventures are more pleasant to talk of than to experience, and I was not a little glad the next morning to resume the independent and safe mode of carriole travelling.

On the 5th August we arrived, at 8 A.M., at the post house of Largaard, where we met the Viceroy of Norway, with whom I had some conversation in French. He said he should long remember the night which he had passed in that wretched inn; he was extremely courteous and polite. His aide-de-camp was a fine young man, and spoke a little English. As they were going to Tronjeim, they kindly offered to order horses and beds for us. Humble as was the inn at Largaard, its inmates contrived to give us an excellent breakfast,

consisting of good coffee, fine trout, eggs, &c., with the addition of some of Mr. S.'s portable soup. Thus refreshed, we started, with new vigour, on our journey.

On leaving Largaard the road goes round a mountain, and there is another precipitous hill, of two miles in length. This is a long mountain pass, and we observed snow on the neighbouring heights.

At the next stage the horses were brought out to meet us by the side of the road. A little urchin in tattered garments, and hair bleached to whiteness from exposure to the sun, came gravely up to me, and asked me for two skillings (one penny). Upon my complying with his request, he not only gave me a nod with his head, but also put out his hand immediately, and shook mine, in order to express the cordiality of his thanks.

After a tedious journey over the Dovre fiæl, an elevated tract of ground, twenty-five

miles across, bounded by towering heights on the right and left, upon the sides of which the snow appeared in patches, we reached Jerkin, a good inn, with a farm attached to it, standing on a hill, and apparently isolated from the rest of the world. Here we slept.*

The day had been fine, and the heat of the sun very fervent, but as we passed the foot of Snœ-hatten, covered with the snow of ages, the climate of summer had suddenly changed to that of winter, and before our arrival at Jerkin I was glad to get out of my carriole and run up the hills, to increase the circulation. The effect of the setting sun, combined with the wildness of the scenery, was beautiful in the extreme. Several Englishmen have occasionally taken up their residence here for some time.

* "The pass at Jerkin exceeds in height almost all the known passes over the northern mountains. This is properly the head of the principal chain of the Dovre fiæl, and it is by far the greatest elevation of the northern peninsula." Von Buch.

The inn is tolerably good, but the charges are considered dear. Abundance of ptarmigan are found in the neighbouring mountains, and trout in the river. Comparatively speaking, the mountains appear insignificant to the traveller whose eye has rested on the sublime Alps.

Snœ-hattan is only 8,000 feet above the level of the sea, whilst Mont Blanc towers to a height of 15,000! After a very short night's rest, we left Jerkin, on the 6th of August, and passed over the highest part of the Dovre fiæl (about 4,600 feet above the sea) to the post-house called Drifstuen, a distance of only six miles from Konsvold. It was the most hilly stage I ever travelled. My countryman, who followed us in his barouche, took ten hours in performing it, although he had eight horses and as many men to assist them. Indeed the landlord at Jerkin expressed great doubts whether so heavy a vehicle could be dragged up such steep hills, or let down the rapid descents, without considerable danger, the extremely

narrow road being only suited for horses, and in many places is actually on the very verge of the precipice.

Between Jerkin and Konsvold, as we were crossing some marshes, we heard the whistle of the golden plover, and afterwards saw several of these birds near the road; we halted in consequence, and taking my gun out of its case, I was successful in killing a couple in a short time, and could I have remained longer I might have had good sport. En route to Drifstuen we also amused ourselves by fishing, and although the water was low, and the weather very bright, we killed a dozen small trout.

At the inns at Jerkin and Konsvold I remarked a handsomely embossed tankard of silver, in which was some beer for each traveller to taste en passant. The furniture of these houses, and of most of the others where we changed horses, although of the rough order, was in good taste, the wardrobes, chests, kitchen clocks, and chairs

being carved, and very much resembling in shape those used in England 200 years ago There were numerous inscriptions on the walls. Iron is found in this country, and copper at Roraas, on the Dovre fæil, where the mines are very productive; but the silver mine at Kongsberg, according to the latest accounts, is now worked at a loss.

CHAPTER IV.

Lower classes of the Norwegians. — Hideous old women. — Hay and corn harvests. — Native dress. — Extreme heat. — Delays in posting. — Value of hay. — Substitute for it. — Steinberg. — View of Tronjeim. — Arrival in the capital. — The cathedral. — Its destruction by fire. — Saxon, Norman, and Moorish architecture. — St. Olaus. — His wise government. — Endeavours to convert his people. — Their rebellion. — His martyrdom — And burial. — His shrine plundered by the Danes. — Loss of the booty. — Service in the cathedral. — Popery and Lutheranism. — Thorvaldsen's statue of Christ. — Bishop Pontoppidan. — Population of Tronjeim. — Its buildings. — Extensive fire. — Difficulty of obtaining lodgings. — Mr. Knudtzon. — Valley of Lerdal. — Gammel-orse cheese. — Furs. — Advantage of acquaintance with the language. — Leave Tronjeim for the Namsen. — Difficulty of travelling. — Arrive at Ekker. — The Namsen. — Successful fishing. — A poacher. — The cobbes. — Mr. Belton's work on Norway.

On the 9th August we left Drifstuen, and proceeded in the direction of Tronjeim,

eleven Norse (seventy-seven English) miles, which we hoped to reach at night. The lower classes are dirty in their persons, but by no means an ill-favoured race; and amongst the young girls I remarked many a pretty face, but some of the old women were absolutely hideous, and might have personated the witches in Macbeth without any stage embellishments. When we arrived late at the post-house at Jerkin I saw several of these antiques get out of their wooden pallets and shake themselves. Whilst they were preparing our coffee they put on their stockings, if they had any, for many are constantly barefooted. The effluvia in the kitchen arising from their cheese (still stronger than chapsiker), their butter, and other causes, I found occasionally almost overpowering, when the doors were closed.

As we drove along to day in our snug carrioles, the weather was delightful, and the peasants were getting in their hay in high condition. I observed several fields of

barley beginning to assume a yellow tinge, so that the hay and corn harvests quickly succeed each other. Amongst the labouring classes the men all wear scarlet cloth caps, and the women a kind of open jacket, with a man's shirt, but without stockings.

We changed horses almost every seven English miles at solitary houses by the side of the road. I never felt the scorching heat of the sun in England to such an extent as we experienced it this day. Notwithstanding our sending on a forebud last night to give notice of the time of our arrival at the different stations, we were detained an hour and a half at one and a considerable time at another. All the farmers horses were engaged at this busy season in carrying the hay. This system of posting is bad, for notwithstanding all the precautions you may take you can never calculate with certainty as to the period of your arrival at your journey's end. We travelled with three horses, one for each of us, and one for our interpreter. The expense is about

9½*d.* for each horse for seven English miles.

We were struck at the neat manner in which the fields are mown in this country; they are cut as close as a parterre in England, so valuable is hay for the cattle during the long winter. I saw the peasants collecting a quantity of leaves and small boughs of alder and other trees, for the same purpose. Fodder for cattle is so scarce all over Norway, that even at Christiania, some years since, large quantities of hay used to be imported from England; and various writers have mentioned that on the coast a compost is made of fish-bones, horse-dung, and other materials, which the cows eat with avidity, and fatten upon it.

We were again detained on the road for want of horses, and did not reach the height, Steinberg, which commands a view of Tronjeim, till nearly three o'clock on the morning of 8th August. The still surface

of the broad fiord, at the northern extremity of which the city stands, was illumined by the rays of the rising sun, and resembled a river of gold, whilst the broken rocks threw their shadows into the polished mirror;—a glorious prospect, which we all stopped to admire. It was one which can never be forgotten, but which no language can describe.

> " Who can paint
> Like nature? Can imagination boast,
> Amid its gay creation, hues like hers?
> ——————— If fancy then
> Unequal fails beneath the pleasing task,
> Ah! what shall language do? ah! where find words
> Ting'd with so many colours?"
>
> THOMSON.

The situation of Tronjeim, with the little isle and fortress of Munkholm rising out of the water, is strikingly beautiful; and its well-sheltered bay and harbour are bounded by mountains covered with snow.

We found some difficulty in procuring accommodation, the Hotel du Nord, the

only one in the place, having been burnt down. We at length obtained rooms in a private house, and after taking a few hours sleep, repaired to the cathedral, "that last remnant of northern magnificence," as it has been appropriately called, and the only edifice in Norway which has any pretensions to architectural beauty. It was rebuilt in the eleventh century, but a considerable portion of it was destroyed by fire 300 years ago; since which, at different times, it has been restored, but in bad taste. Many parts of the ancient structure, however, remain, and the Saxon arches are elaboratcly worked, and in a high state of preservation. Here we meet with the zigzag Norman pattern, and some of the ornaments called to my recollection the Moorish buildings in Spain. How singular is this coincidence! Can it be that some builder who had returned from Palermo brought with him something of the oriental taste? This combination does not surprise one in Sicily, where the rude soldiers of Roger were compelled to employ Saracenic

architects and builders, who naturally, while they endeavoured to work out the wishes of their Norman employers, would introduce much of their own exquisite and peculiar style. The tower is not high enough for the roof, but the Chinese-looking cupola at one end has a good effect, although it does not harmonize with the rest of the building. There is something venerable and impressive in the general effect of this sacred edifice, though one of the bishops was such a tasteless barbarian as to whitewash a portion both of the exterior and the interior. This cathedral is dedicated to St. Olaus or St. Olave, King of Norway, who, we are told by the best authorities, delivered his country from the tyranny under which the Swedes and Danes had for some time held it. In 1013 he sailed to England, and successfully assisted King Ethelred against the Danes. St. Olave brought back with him from Britain several devout and learned priests and monks, one of whom, named Grimkele, was chosen Bishop of Drontheim, his capital.

The pious king did nothing without the advice of this prelate, and by his counsel published many wholesome laws, and abolished such ancient ordinances and customs as were contrary to the Gospel; nor did he limit these ameliorations to Norway only, but extended them to the isles of Orkney and Iceland. This religious king, having settled his dominions in peace, set himself to extirpate out of them the abominable superstitions of idolatry. He travelled in person from town to town, exhorting his subjects "to open the eyes of their souls to the bright light of faith." A company of zealous preachers attended him, and he demolished in many places the idolatrous temples. The heathens resisted these innovations; they rebelled, and with the assistance of Canute the Great defeated and expelled him. St. Olave fled into Russia, whence he soon after returned, and raised an army, in order to recover his kingdom, but was slain by his rebellious and infidel subjects in a battle fought at Stichstadt, north of Drontheim, on the 29th July 1030,

after having reigned sixteen years. These traitors seem to have been in the interest of Canute, who arrived from England in Norway, and made his nephew Hacken, and afterwards his son Sweno, Viceroy of Norway. St. Olave's body was honourably buried at Drontheim, and the year following Bishop Grimkele commanded him to be honoured in that church with the title of martyr, and enrolled among the saints. His son Magnus was called home from Russia in 1035, and restored to the throne. He laboured successfully to increase the devotion of the people to the memory of his father the martyr, who was accordingly chosen the titular saint of the cathedral.

This church was rebuilt with such splendor and magnificence as to have become the glory and pride of all the north. Grimkele has given us a minute description of it after Lutheranism was introduced, but it was soon after burnt by lightning. The body of St. Olave was found incorrupt in 1098, as it again was in 1541,

when the Lutherans plundered the shrine, which was adorned with gold and jewels of an immense value, a treasure nowhere equalled in the north. The ship which carried the greatest part of this sacrilegious booty foundered at sea in the road to Denmark; the rest was seized by robbers on land, so that nothing of it came into the King of Denmark's hands.

The Lutherans treated the saint's body with respect, and left it in its inner wooden case, in the same place where the shrine had stood. In 1568 they decently buried it in the cathedral. His shrine became famous for working miracles, and he was honoured with extraordinary veneration throughout all the northern kingdoms, and was titular saint of several churches in England and Scotland.*

* It appears by the Ordinale compiled by Bishop Grandison for the use of the Exeter cathedral, that Saint Olave was baptized at Rouen, and that his murder or martyrdom took place on the 29th of July A.D. 1028.

The congregation consisted of about 300 persons; the number of females greatly predominated, and most of these, belonging to the lower orders, sat in pews on one side of the aisle, entirely to themselves; opposite to them were the men. The service commenced by the deacon, as he stood before the principal altar, giving out a psalm, which was well sung, and in which every one present joined. The lower notes of the organ are rich, full, and harmonious, but the upper rather thin and wiry. The sermon followed, not a word of which unfortunately could I understand. The preacher not being in full orders, the blessing was given from the altar by another minister. The Lutheran religion is established by law, but the form of worship struck me, in many respects, as being decidedly Roman Catholic, particularly that part where the priest, turning his back on the congregation, bows to the altar, singing the prayers in Latin. His dress was a black robe, and around his neck he wore a kind of Queen Eliza-

beth's ruff. The pews for the higher orders, which run up on both sides almost to the roof, are boxes much resembling in appearance those at a minor theatre, except that they are painted plain white, and have curtains in front. At the chief altar is a cast of the colossal statue of Christ, by the celebrated Thorvaldsen, the effect of which is extremly imposing; but those of the twelve apostles, in the surrounding niches, are very inferior, and ought never to have been placed there. The good Bishop Pontoppidan lies buried in this cathedral, where a Latin inscription records his virtues, and the principal acts of his life. As I walked through the churchyard, I was struck with the neat manner in which many of the graves were ornamented with bouquets of fresh flowers, which had evidently been brought there during the morning.

Tronjeim contains about 12,000 inhabitants. Its streets are wide, and in the

centre of many of them are fountains of fine water. The houses are handsome, and built with tolerable regularity; and several of those belonging to government, and in which the public offices are held, are spacious, and have a grand appearance. Last April there was a dreadful fire in this city, 350 of the best houses, forming an entire street fronting the water, were consumed. The King of Norway, in his recent speech at the opening of the tenth Storthing, on the 11th February of the present year 1842, mentions "this misfortune which has struck the ancient town of Tronjeim," and whilst he regrets the calamity, "remarks with pleasure the noble sentiments of humanity and benevolence which have been manifested on that occasion. The loss has been severe, but, divided chiefly among proprietors, it has been less felt, and has offered them in compensation the consolation of having saved the lives of a great number of their grateful fellow-citizens."

From the nature of the materials of which most of the houses have been built, extensive fires are very prevalent in all the towns of Norway. This part of the city was now being rebuilt; but the only inn having been burnt, we should have fared but badly had not some friends assisted us in finding lodgings. Several private individuals receive travellers into their houses; but, after knocking up Madame Hombert's servant at three o'clock in the morning, she informed us to our discomfort (for it was raining hard at the time) that there was no room. Mr. Jorgen Knudtzon, brother of the English consul, to whom I had brought letters of introduction from Lord Henry Kerr and Sir Thomas Acland, is a man of polished manners, having travelled in most parts of Europe, and lived for a considerable period in good English society; he consequently spoke our language perfectly, and, after having very kindly invited us, and the gentlemen who had been our fellow-travellers from Hull, to dinner next day, he was obliged to leave us, being engaged to

meet the Viceroy, whom, as I have already mentioned, we had seen on our way to Tronjeim.

On Monday the 9th August we drove to Mr. Knudtzon's country house (for his town residence, as well as that of his brother, had been consumed by the fire), and he kindly accompanied us to the waterfalls in the valley of Lerdal, a distance of three miles from Tronjeim. There are two falls, both highly picturesque, the upper one especially; we may see larger ones as we proceed, but probably few more beautiful. The stream is precipitated over a mass of rocks, whilst clouds of fleecy vapour rise from below. We admired the view from a window of a copper mill, which building greatly detracts from the wild interest of the spot. The copper found in this neighbourhood is here smelted.

The only viand at Mr. Knudtzon's well-appointed table upon which I will make a remark, as being national, was the gammel-

orse cheese. It is green in colour, and has a very strong smell, which to many persons is disagreeable, but when eaten with butter is excellent. Mr. Knudtzon informed me that he spends every winter in England, Italy, Germany, or France, as the society which Tronjeim at present affords is extremely limited, being entirely confined to the persons connected with the government. It is evident to me, that what the Norwegians most feel, is the injustice of their separation from Denmark in 1814, and their having been annexed to the crown of Sweden; although they admit, that, independently of the act itself, the government is carried on well.

At Tronjeim, the traveller who may be about to encounter the rigours of a northern winter may purchase his furs to advantage. We saw a great variety, particularly those of the wolf, lynx, and ermine. The price of the latter was very reasonable; about twopence each; but those of the bear and wolf were extremely dear. We were asked forty

dollars, £8, for a beautiful full-sized cloak of wolf-skin, such as is commonly used for sledge travelling.

As nothing but the Norse language is spoken, and as few travellers have time or inclination to master it, although from its affinity to the English the task is very easy, it is obvious that, as in the east, a dragoman is an article of indispensable necessity. The great point is, to obtain a person who can act both as a servant and as an interpreter, and a bilingual Norwegian is a rara avis. He may, however, be met with in the sea-ports, where, from intercourse with England and Scotland, some of the sailors have picked up the language. A servant is of much greater importance during a tour in Norway than elsewhere; he becomes, in fact, the friend, the adviser, the companion, the mouthpiece of his solitary master, whose ears and tongue would, without him, be of little use. It is from being unacquainted with the language of the people that the book of their inner real life is a sealed one to the traveller.

Half the quarrels and misunderstandings on both sides, the complaints of the stranger against native rudeness or extortion, the indignation of the Norwegians against the violence, ill-temper, and discontent of their visitors, arise from neither party being able to explain any thing. The safest and best plan is to apply to some respectable banker or merchant on landing, and to engage for the whole of your excursion the person whom he recommends. Those, however, who have their ears open, and have any facility in learning a language, will soon pick up a smattering of Norse; and the more an individual acquires a language, so much the more, in the words of Charles the Fifth, "is he a man."

After expressing our best thanks to Mr. Broder and to Mr. Jorgen Knudtzon, for their many kind attentions, we left Tronjeim on the afternoon of the 10th of August. The distance to the Namsen is 150 English miles. For the first part of the journey the country is rich, fertile, and

highly cultivated. The small town of Levanger, fifty miles from Tronjeim, may be said to be the extreme boundary in this direction of the civilised world. We remarked a gentleman's house on a large scale about a mile from it, and in its neighbourhood are some farms which, for Norway, may be termed extensive, producing oats, barley, hemp, and flax. These farms appear to be well managed, and to each a small hop-garden is attached.

We halted at Steinkjar, a village situated at the end of the long Tronjeim fiord, and near which is some good salmon fishing. As we proceeded the country became very hilly, and the roads, which abound with lofty pines and deep shades, are impassable to any vehicle except a carriole. We had for several miles passed through natural woods of immense extent, and the mass of trees which had been laid low by the hurricane two years ago produced a very picturesque effect. They were torn up by the roots, and many had fallen at right angles

to others near them, forming a tangled and almost impenetrable barrier. I frequently turned round to admire the wildness of the scene—a primeval forest enclosed on both sides by rugged rocks.

On the 12th August we reached Ekker, where we intended to remain for some time. On our road we had to cross several ferries, and before we arrived at our destination both the shafts of my carriole were broken, from the raw colt which I had to drive having kicked going down one of the hills, almost within sight of Ekker.

On Friday and Saturday the 13th and 14th we had glorious sport in fishing in the far-famed Namsen, killing upwards of 100 lbs. of salmon. We greatly enjoyed, for the first time, the excitement this delightful sport affords. One of the fish I killed, after playing him for as many minutes, weighed 23 lbs.; another, after I had hooked him, leaped twice out of the water in the middle of the stream, ran down

a rapid, and then returning, went under our boat, when I thought I had lost him, but he again took to the open river, and showed much play before he was brought to the gaff, when, not a little fatigued with the exertion, which is considerable, I was glad to rest.

In the midst of this magnificent sport, sometimes an audacious poacher interferes, who mars your enjoyment. The awful sound of "*cobbe*" still rings in my Devonian ears. I had at first associated the well-known name with those mud-built but peaceful abodes in which the happy peasantry of my native and beautiful county pass their tranquil lives from one generation to another. Judge, then, of my horror, gentle reader, at beholding the grizzly head of a villainous *seal* emerging above the waters, and, like myself, looking out for the finny tribe. He races up, in an incredibly short space of time, from the mouth of the Namsen to the Fiskum Foss, beyond which neither he nor the salmon can go; and

when he is once in the river all your sport is at an end, and you may as well lay down your rod in despair, and go home to your dinner and siesta —"Othello's occupation's o'er!"—for although there may be hundreds of salmon in the river, not one will rise at a fly, be it never so tempting; they have an instinctive feeling of the presence of their deadliest enemy, which entirely takes away their appetites; young and old, large and small, all alike dread the seal; they plunge into holes and corners, and hide themselves like a squandered cowering covey,

> "Which cuddles closer to the brake,
> Afraid to move, afraid to fly,"

when a hawk hovers over them. A glimpse of a seal clears the river; the salmon are stupified with fear, or occupied too much with self-preservation, to allow even Izaac Walton to catch them. I arrived at this conviction by frequent disappointments, and gave up all hope of sport at the appearance of this unwelcome and uninvited visitor. These aquatic monsters are to the salmon

what the otter is to the trout; and as they roll by his boat, the angler should always have his double-barrel and swan-shot at hand, as the only effectual method of warning them off. He and the cobbes are too much of the same trade ever to agree.

It is not needful for me to enter into minute piscatory details, or to make many suggestions as to the best method of insuring success, as Mr. Belton has given us a most true and graphic insight into the raptures of a lover of the angle; and his two volumes should form part of the tackle of every future Norwegian traveller*; indeed it is to be feared that they have done so already, and by expatiating on the merits of Norway, its facilities, and unexampled sport, have peopled the once lonely river banks with our erratic countrymen. The fishing will every day diminish; the feræ naturæ of course recede before civilization; man is doomed to be their master and destroyer.

* "Two Summers in Norway. London, 1840."

The Norwegians, who are excellent in copying, although slow in invention, have already began to imitate those processes which the English angler has taught them. They now construct rude flies; and if they cannot kill many fish, either by their aid, or by that of the worm or the net, they nevertheless, by constantly troubling and worrying the waters, drive the salmon away, make them shy, and spoil the sport of the scientific professor, who has come more than a thousand weary miles only to find himself anticipated by those who, like the heron, live on the river's bank, and never miss an opportunity.

CHAPTER V.

Ekker. — Village church. — Services. — Bossuet. — Free-will offerings. — Income of the clergyman. — The sabbath in Norway. — Dancing. — The Norwegian females. — A day's shooting. — Scarcity of game. — A mountain dairy. — A handsome shepherdess. — Virtue of the Norwegians. — Our household. — Provisions. — The moltebeer. — Private distillation allowed by the government. — Its ill effects. — Expences of living. — Looms. — Manufactures of the country. — A Lapp girl. — Skins. — Government reward for killing bears and wolves. — Attacks of a bear on the herds. — Expedition against the offender. — Failure, and narrow escape of the assailants. — Anecdote of a bear-hunt. — Beasts of prey. — Destroyed by traps. — The bear-killer.

On Sunday the 15th August, at Ekker, we went to the village church, which is about a mile and a half distant, and where service is performed only once a month, as the

elergyman has two other parishes under his charge, which are distant from each other many miles, as necessarily must be the case in these hilly tracts, where villages are scattered only here and there, and these few and far between. This church, like most others in Norway, is built entirely of wood. Its pointed spire has a picturesque appearance in the distance. The entire building is painted outside of a dark red colour; the inside is left unpainted. The congregation consisted of about a hundred of the peasantry, the males occupying one side, and the females the other. The priest's personal appearance was striking. His figure was commanding, and his countenance handsome; his voice clear and powerful, and his manner earnest and impressive. After the sermon, which lasted more than half an hour, and finished with a quotation of poetry, the sound of which was very harmonious, two infants were brought to the baptismal font, and christened. They were accompanied by their mothers, and sponsors of both sexes, twelve in number. It was a longer

ceremony than ours, but did not differ materially. Next followed the administration of the holy communion. The priest, having preached in a black stuff gown, performed the christening in a fine white surplice, and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in a handsome embroidered purple robe, with a large golden cross on the back. This part of the costume, as well as his occasionally crossing himself, and bowing towards the altar, again strongly reminded me of the Roman Catholic worship. The *cross* is seen on the altars in both the Catholic and Lutheran churches; and Bossuet, in the first volume of his work, entitled, "Variations des Eglises," says, "Luther regarda la croix comme une monument de pieté, et comme un salutaire avertissement qui nous rappeloit dans l'esprit la mort et la passion de Jesus Christ. Et je ne m'en étonne pas qu'à la tête de tous les volumes de ses œuvres on l'ait peint avec son maitre l'Electeur à genoux devant un crucifix." In giving the bread, the priest used these words, "Christ and his

flesh;" and on presenting the cup, "Christ and his blood."

During the whole of the ceremony the clerk and all the congregation joined in singing Luther's hymn. Many of the communicants, as well as other persons, afterwards passed round the back of the altar, and deposited in a box a few skillings each, as a free-will offering to the priest, who bowed in acknowledgment to those who paid him this compliment. Every person present joined in the psalms, and sung in tune; and there was an apparent devotion and earnestness in the manner in which the whole of the service of the day was performed which I could not but admire. After church I was introduced to the priest, whose manners are such as to fit him for the best society. I had some conversation with him, as he spoke a little French; and I said that I hoped to have the pleasure of paying my personal respects to him on a future day, and of bringing him some fish. I understand his income is about £100 per annum,

and that he belongs to one of the old noble families. His wife was dressed very much in the English fashion, and was a quiet simple-mannered person.

Sunday is not considered here as with us, a day of rest, nor observed as such for the whole twenty-four hours; the public service of the church being over, the remainder of the day seems to be devoted in Norway, as it is in Roman Catholic countries, to amusement and merry-making. I found after the christening that there was a dance, which lasted till one o'clock the next morning; and had it not been Sunday night I should have made a point of witnessing the scene. Two Englishmen were of the party, and waltzed all night with the Norse belles, who dance remarkably well.

I saw many handsome countenances amongst the females; the eyes are their finest feature, but their greatest charms are their extreme modesty and virtue; the conduct of the married as well as of the

single women is without reproach. Some of our countrymen who had frequently attended their merry meetings informed me they had never witnessed an instance of irregularity, nor even the slightest levity of conduct.

On Monday, 16th August, we went out shooting on the hill, at the foot of which our abode at Ekker stands. It is entirely covered with a pine wood, and the ground was so marshy that we frequently sunk up to our knees in mud, and a heavy rain coming on in the middle of the day we were drenched to the skin.

Previous to this, however, after trying much of the cover, we found amongst the rocks a pack of eight ptarmigan. I killed one, and one of my companions another, and this was the whole of our sport. Game is not abundant in Norway, and is scattered over such an interminable extent of forests, that it is very difficult to find it, particularly at this season of the year; but in the

winter ptarmigan in a frozen state are sent for sale to the towns in immense quantities. As far as I can as yet judge, however, I should say it is scarcely worth the travellers while to bring his gun with him to Norway, except, indeed, for the purpose of keeping the "cobbes" in order. There are a few capercailzie in this neighbourhood, but there is no getting at them without the aid of a good pointer.

We had a very laborious walk to-day, and were glad enough to rest awhile, and partake of some delicious milk, a large depôt of which our guide discovered, high up in the hills. It was a mountain dairy, and consisted of a low log-hut. We deposited a few skillings in a bowl in payment for what we had taken; but as we were leaving the place, the old woman who had the care of the cows which graze on this high ground during the summer months came up to us. She was full of gratitude for the small pittance which we had left for her, and said we were welcome at any time

to as much milk as we pleased. This kind of hut is called a *sætter*. One of our party a few days since, whilst taking a solitary ramble in the midst of the wildest mountains in this neighbourhood, suddenly came upon a similar *sætter*, the guardian of which was a lovely girl of sixteen, with fine full black eyes, a beautiful countenance, and one of the finest forms in nature; she tended the cattle with no other companions but a little boy of eight years old and a dog; and here the livelong day and night, unconscious alike of her beauty, or the danger to which it might expose her, did this artless unprotected child of nature pass the summer months. But, indeed, such is the virtue and simplicity of character in these remote, unsophisticated regions, that no instance has ever occurred of violence being offered to one of these lonely shepherdesses. It may be that the custom of thus leaving their daughters and sisters to the care of an all-watching Providence has tended to foster a feeling of honour in the men of Norway, and induced them to

respect all unprotected females. But they are not unprotected; the invincible strength and charm of modesty are their safeguard;

" She that has that is clad in complete steel,
And, like a quiver'd nymph with arrow keen,
May trace huge forests, and unharbour'd heaths,
Infamous hills, and sandy perilous wilds,
Where, through the sacred rays of Chastity,
No savage fierce, bandit, or mountaineer,
Will dare to soil her virgin purity." MILTON.

Our return home was attended with difficulty, and some little danger, in descending the mountain by a different route. After forcing our way through tangled brushwood, and walking over the trunks of many large trees which had been felled by the wind, we arrived at a spot where the rock was so nearly perpendicular, and the footing so precarious, that I made the guide halt, and insisted on his taking a more circuitous path, which we at length, after much trouble, succeeded in finding.

Our household at Ekker consists of a man and his wife, their two sons and three

daughters, and a servant; they all alike take their share of the domestic duties. The daughters, two of whom were full-grown women, wore their hair in long plaited tails, reaching halfway down their backs; they were clean and neat in their appearance, and all the individuals of the family were respectful, civil, and obliging. We lived, like Robinson Crusoe, on the produce of our guns and fishing rods; salmon was our daily food, for breakfast as well as dinner and supper. Some of our countrymen, however, who were staying at a farm-house ten miles distant, killed a sheep on one occasion, and sent us part of it. We also shot some grouse and ptarmigan. Our ship biscuit, of which I had furnished myself with a large bag full at Hull, was invaluable to us at all our meals; indeed we should have fared but ill without it, as both the rusks, and the rye, barley, and oaten bread of the country, are sour, and so strongly flavoured with aniseed as to be very disagreeable to an English palate. Ekker only provided us with chocolate,

which is good, and generally to be procured in the cottages, coffee, eggs, abundance of milk, all excellent of their kind, and the yellow moltebeer or cloudberry (rubus chamæmorus), of which the woods are full; they are delicious when made into a preserve, and mixed with cream and sugar. The purple whortleberry (vaccinium) is equally abundant, but not so well flavoured; the potatoes also were tolerably good. All we drank, except the pure water, was the brandy and wine which we brought with us from Tronjeim, as the only beverage to be procured in this region is the ardent spirit called finkel, for the manufacturing of which every peasant is allowed by government to have a private still on his premises. This indulgence may truly be said to be the curse of the country, as it offers so great an encouragement to the national vice of intemperance. Beer is only made in small quantities, and of inferior quality; we never saw it, except in the silver tankard, already mentioned, at the principal farmhouses.

Our bed-rooms were clean, and provided with all the comforts that we required, although we found the eider-down quilts somewhat warm for this season of the year. The charge for our comfortable lodging, food, attendance, and all other expenses, at Ekker, was about six shillings a day for myself, my son, and our interpreter.

In every farm-house or cottage that we had yet seen one of the rooms was occupied by a loom for weaving coarse linen, in which manufacture we observed these industrious people frequently engaged.

They also weave the strong dark grey woollen cloth of which their clothes are made, and stout gloves, of which I bought a pair. They likewise manufacture their own shoes, although in a rude manner. I purchased two pair of Lapp boots, made of the undressed skin of the rein-deer, with the hair turned outwards; they are very warm, and used chiefly in sledge-travelling.

A young Lapp girl spent an evening in our house; she was in service about a Norse mile off, and had been living in the same place for three years. Being an orphan, she had left sixteen rein-deer, her whole fortune, to the care of her countrymen, and had come into the valley to gain a livelihood, where she told us she had learnt the Norse language, and was now quite reconciled to the change. She also said there was an encampment of Lapps only ninety English miles from us, and she could always find them out "*by the scent of the rein-deer!*" We asked her to be our guide in the journey which we were contemplating to make in search of them, to which she replied with a smile, that she should be afraid to accompany us.

At the entrance of our house at Ekker, and of most others, were hung up several fine bear-skins, well prepared and lined, affording in winter to the sledge-traveller a comfortable protection from the cold.

We also admired several handsome wolf-skins, preserved in the same manner. The former are sold for £3 sterling; the latter for £1 each. The government allow £1 12*s.* English money for killing a bear, and 16*s.* for killing a wolf, and the official stamp is put upon the skin.

Bears are frequently found in the immediate vicinity of Ekker. On the night of the 16th instant, one of these animals killed two bullocks, belonging to the father of our boatman, Johannes, in the mountain, only three miles and a half from our residence.... They come down from the rocks and forests at this season, to attack the numerous herds which are pasturing in all directions, and also to feast in the corn-fields, in which they are frequently killed by means of a trap. The dead bullocks having been left in the wood, we were invited to repair to the spot the following evening, when the bear, it was said, was sure to return to his beef supper. I, for my part, had no ambition to encounter

such a monster, or to hand down either my enterprise or courage to posterity; but I had some difficulty in checking the ambition of my youthful companion. To spare my anxiety, however, he gave up his wish to join so perilous an expedition.

Two other Englishmen, both young and adventurous spirits, went, and in their way had to climb up almost perpendicular rocks, and to swing by branches of trees, to avoid falling down the precipices. They arrived at eight o'clock, and turning a corner suddenly, found the bear in the act of devouring one of the carcases! At this critical moment, when only thirty yards from the animal, and when with beating hearts they were preparing to fire, a peasant who had accompanied them, in his eagerness unfortunately discharged his gun too soon, and the beast made off, roaring tremendously, without their having an opportunity of firing at him. They frankly confessed that they felt more joy than sorrow at his departure,

for there was a good deal about his appearance which did not make them wish for a more intimate acquaintance. These gentlemen may be said to have had a fortunate escape, for had they hit the bear without wounding him in a vital part, their doing which was a mere chance, the animal would to a certainty have turned upon them, and one of their lives in all probability would have been sacrificed; for few animals are more tenacious of existence than this tribe, of which I soon after heard an instance from Mr. F——, who himself was the hero of the adventure. He is a great chasseur, and after making all the necessary inquiries from persons accustomed to the sport, and studying the habits of the genus Ursus, he repaired about a year since to wait (like the two gentlemen whom I have just mentioned) for the expected coming of the bear to a certain spot. Mr. F——, however, had laid his plan better than our two friends, and was a man of great nerve; he was accompanied by a single servant, for the pur-

pose of awaking him if he fell asleep, which he happened to do, after reading for half an hour, by way of occupying his time. Bruin arrived; Mr. F—— was suddenly called from his slumbers, and in an instant fired a ball, which broke the spine of the beast. The bear thus disabled could not move, and to this fortunate circumstance may the sportsman's escape be attributed. The huge monster sat erect on his haunches grinning defiance, and before he was killed no less than twelve balls were lodged in his body!

Bears at this season of the year are very bold and ravenous, and we heard frequent instances of the depredations they had committed amongst the cattle, which for security are every evening driven down from the mountains into the valleys. It is stated by the inhabitants that this animal, soon after the end of September, seeks some rocky cavern, where he passes the winter, and remains in a dormant state till the spring.

In winter wolves infest many parts of this country; the lynx is common; and they have the glutton also, but this latter is more rare. To destroy these beasts of prey loaded guns are laid close to the carcase of some animal, and discharged by means of a string attached to the trigger. We were informed that bears are often found in corn-fields near to which the cattle are feeding. These are manfully attacked by the farmers; and one old *bonder* in particular was pointed out to us, who had given proof both of his skill and courage, by the capture of a greater number of them than any other person in the district.

CHAPTER VI.

Salmon fishing in the Namsen. — Lateness of our arrival. — Superiority of the Namsen over the Scotch and Irish salmon streams. — Method of fishing. — The Fiskum Foss. — Excitement of the sport. — Boatmen. — The fishing stations. — Rapid increase of anglers. — Destruction of the fishing in the Namsen. — New rivers. — Tackle. — Flies. — Necessaries. — Fishing season. — Birds. — Their scarceness in Norway. — The alk. — Wild fruits. — Unpleasant adventure. — Law in Norway. — A lawyer's bill. — A Norwegian landowner. — Malthus on Norway. — The soil and climate. — Succession to property. — Pasture lands. — Dearness of hay.

EKKER, August the 21st.—Although we caught upwards of two hundred weight of fine salmon in seven days, weighing from

seven to twenty-three pounds each, we were six weeks too late to expect the same glorious sport which four of our countrymen had enjoyed, who left the place a few days after our arrival. They had resided here upwards of two months, and had killed more than a thousand pounds weight each. Their largest fish weighed no less than forty-seven pounds.

The sportsman who can spare the time, and has no objection to encountering the rolling floods of the north sea, will find the Namsen the best salmon river in Europe, and be fully repaid for any difficulties to which he may have been exposed in getting to it. The Tay, the Tweed, and several other streams both in Scotland and in Ireland, are strictly preserved, and occasionally offer a good day's sport; but if you reach the Namsen at the proper season there is no surly keeper to warn you off, and the water is so well stocked with fish that your success becomes a matter of certainty. Neither is there much science required to

take from 100 lbs. to 150 lbs. of salmon, grilse, and trout in a day. In most of our rivers at home, where the fisherman of necessity is stationed on the bank, no slight degree of skill is necessary in throwing the fly to the most 'likely' parts; but you can command the whole of the broad and magnificent stream to which I now allude from a boat, which gives you a great advantage, and is a very killing method of fishing. Whenever you see a salmon leap you immediately row near to the spot, and if you have the right fly you are almost certain of a rise. But when once hooked, if it be a large fish, considerable time and patience are required before it can be brought within reach of the gaff. You now depend chiefly on your boatmen in following the salmon either up or down the stream, frequently amongst rocks, and sometimes so close to the Fiskum Foss that there is some danger of the boat being swamped, and no little nerve is required to continue the pursuit. The noise of the cascade here is so great that the human voice can scarcely be heard, and the

spray rising from beneath forms a beautiful and continued rainbow;

" Nor can the tortured wave here find repose,
But raging still amid the shaggy rocks,
Now flashes o'er the scatter'd fragments, now
Aslant the hollow'd channel rapid darts,
And falling fast from gradual slope to slope,
With wild infracted course, and lessen'd roar,
It gains a safer bed, and steals at last
Along the mazes of the quiet vale." THOMSON.

It requires some courage, as I have just remarked, to venture into the pool at Fiskum, where the water forms a dangerous eddy, and renders the management of the boat very uncertain; but your sport makes you forget all risk, and it is difficult for me to convey to my readers an idea of the excitement produced by seeing occasionally this part of the river as it were alive by the leaping of the numerous salmon from ten to thirty pounds each; indeed no one but a brother of the angle can enter into the feeling.

Your two boatmen, to whom you pay about 4 orts (3*s*. 4*d*.) a day, when not on

the water are employed in agricultural pursuits. They expect to have the fish you do not require for your own use, and they divide it amongst the people who live at the three fishing stations of which the river may be said to consist; namely, at Fiskum, beyond which the salmon cannot go up on account of the fall, at Gartland, and at Ekker ferry. For the information of those who may follow me to the Namsen, I should say that there is only room for six rods and as many men, two at each of the above-mentioned villages, where they will meet with the greatest civility, and as good accommodation as a thorough-bred sportsman would wish for. The water the best suited for fishing is not more than from six to eight miles in extent, but this is sufficient for the number of persons I have mentioned, without any risk of their interfering with each other, although they must of course try the same pools and runs every day, which is somewhat objectionable. The luxury would be to have the whole stream to yourself; and in such a case you might

probably kill more salmon here than in any other river of the world. But such a privilege as this can never be expected in future, unless indeed you purchase the ground on each side, together with the exclusive right of fishing, which more than one of my extravagant and monopolizing countrymen have contemplated.

The Namsen was discovered to be full of salmon about ten years ago, since which time it has not been so much fished as to have diminished the sport, but Mr. Belton's recent publication has so eloquently celebrated its praises, that in future I expect whole cargoes of fishermen will every season be brought by the steamers direct from England to Tronjeim, and thence will proceed in three days by land to the Namsen. If so, the glorious sport which it now affords will soon come to an end.

Those who have once enjoyed such fishing as I have imperfectly attempted to describe must seek out new rivers to satisfy

them; indeed a gentleman I met with had been spending the last two years in Sweden for this purpose, and informed me that the streams in that country were so full of salmon that on a bright day hundreds might be seen, but that the water was still and clear, and the fish, generally speaking, would not rise at the fly, but were caught, proh pudor! in large wooden traps. Of the correctness of this account I have no doubt, but it can only apply to certain streams in Sweden, and there are others both in that country and in Norway which have never been fished, and where, consequently, the efficacy of an artificial fly still remains to be ascertained.

Nothing in the shape of tackle can be procured in Norway; it will therefore be necessary for the angler to take with him the following articles:—

120 yards of *oiled silk line* of the best quality, which Eton of Crooked Lane, London, will supply, and which was used without once breaking by two of our country-

men on the Namsen, who I have previously stated killed so large a weight of fish; whereas we lost many fine salmon, which carried off portions of our weak lines, together with the collar and fly, a sad mortification, which I should wish others to avoid. The fish are both heavy and strong, and the best tackle is required; an eighteen foot rod, the top joint to splice; a simple rod to correspond; a two-handed trout rod and reel; a couple of strong gaffs made of wrought iron; four dozen salmon flies; four dozen smaller flies, for grilse and trout; six casting lines; some minnow tackle; some hooks, and materials for making your own flies. These last are, as every fisherman knows, most important to ensure success.

We found a gaudy red fly, made of worsted and gold twist, with grey drake wings, the most killing in the morning and during the middle of the day, and a white moth, composed of silver twist with black

worsted body, the best of an evening, as the most easily seen by the fish; but when salmon are inclined to sport they will rise at almost any fly. Evatt, of Warwick Street, has the reputation of turning the best flies, and as far as our experience went we found him deserving of it.

The following articles are also indispensable for the traveller's comfort:—A hammock, a pair of blankets, and a cotton bag as a protection from musquitoes; two shooting or fishing suits, three pair of strong shoes, &c. &c., with boots to cover the whole of the leg and thigh; some pocket knives, scissors, and needles, as presents for the natives; a certain stock of provisions must not be forgotten; ship biscuits and portable soup must be brought from England, as well as good tea and sugar; but excellent French brandy at two shillings and sixpence a bottle, sherry at a moderate price, well-flavoured hams, rice, &c., may be procured at Tronjeim. If you

omit to provide yourself with these, your diet on the Namsen will be almost confined to fish and coffee.

July and August are generally considered the best months for fishing in Norway, but this year the season was unusually early, and we arrived too late, as the salmon had risen most freely in June and July; at that time, however, the weather was so hot, and the sun so bright and scorching, that those sportsmen who preceded us were obliged to lay down their rods for some hours in the middle of the day, and repose on the bank of the river, finding the siesta as requisite in these northern latitudes as it is in Spain or Portugal.

There are very few birds in Norway in comparison to the number which the traveller meets with in most other countries. We only saw in these interminable forests the fieldfare, the chaffinch, tomtit, grey (Royston) crow, magpies in great numbers,

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hawks, a few eagles, and the rarest of all, the great black woodpecker*, and on the Namsen, that beautiful bird, the red-throated diver†, wild ducks, &c. The paucity of birds in this country is remarked by every traveller; but during the summer months, and near the habitations of man, we are greatly enlivened by the tribes of swallows, those interesting birds, the harbingers of fine weather and of genial seasons. Woodcocks and snipes breed here, but are evidently scarce at this time of the year, as only one of the former has been seen by any of us. On the coast, however, the number of alks and other sea birds is so astonishing, that one of the writers on Norway fancifully says they hide the sun like a cloud when they fly out from the rocks, and that the noise of their wings makes a roaring in the air like a storm.

The river at the time of our visit was very low, and as the fish would not rise in

* Picus Martius, found in the large fir woods.
† Colymbus Septentrionalis of Latham.

the middle of the day, we occasionally left our boat, and landed on the rocks. Some eggs were procured from a neighbouring farm-house, on which, with the addition of the biscuits we had brought with us, we used to make our repast, which, frugal as it was, we greatly enjoyed.

In all the woods bordering on this beautiful stream are to be found quantities of raspberries, red currants, and strawberries, now at maturity, and of the most delicious flavour, quite equal, except in size, to those grown in our English gardens.

I this day saw an eagle flying over the rocks with amazing rapidity, till he was lost in the clouds.

The only unpleasant adventure I had in Norway was that of being obliged to disburse fifteen dollars (three guineas English) for law expenses, in consequence of my refusing to pay one dollar for the hire of a

post-horse. This animal, as I have already mentioned, being young, and unfit for harness, kicked when the man was leading him down a hill, and broke both the shafts of my carriole. Upon my arrival at Ekker I told the proprietor of the horse that I declined settling with him till he had repaired my carriage. This he refused to do, and we parted, he having previously asked my name. Two days after I received a summons to go four miles to answer the complaint. I sent my interpreter (Peter), the sailor whom I had engaged at Tronjeim, to represent me; and my ambassador in the evening brought me back a bill of costs from the court, adjudicating me to pay fourteen dollars, eight to the crown, and the remainder for the attendance of witnesses, &c. &c., the demand being accompanied with a message, that if the amount were not forthcoming before the sitting of the court on Saturday next it would be considerably increased. I accordingly repaired the following week to the house of the amtman (judge or gover-

nor for the district), and fortunately overtook his worship as he was driving in his carriole to the court, a distance of three English miles. We had a parley on the road for half an hour, and I in vain pleaded the hardship of my case, the courier of one of our friends acting as my interpreter. I stated that I was a county magistrate in England, and that if I had committed a breach of the laws of Norway I had done so in ignorance, and was sorry for it. All my logic, however, proved a waste of words, the laws of Norway are imperative, and the only satisfaction I obtained was, that of being very politely informed by the amtman, that if the case was allowed to come into court I should have to pay at least eight dollars in addition. I therefore made a virtue of necessity, and gave him the fourteen dollars, with another for the loss of my prosecutor's time this day. The magistrate was particularly well-bred, and courteous in his manner, and although he allowed the case to be a hard one, and that the rough boor was to blame, assured me I

had no remedy, not having any witnesses to prove that the right was on my side. In short, my prosecutor was heard, and his false statement believed and acted upon; whilst I, the accused party, was not allowed to say a word in my own defence. Such is the administration of justice in Norway!

The bill of costs was so curious a document, that had I not unfortunately left it in the hands of the amtman, I would publish it, as a warning to future travellers of what they are to expect from Scandinavian law. Amongst the items I remember was "Eight dollars for opening the court," so much for the attendance of witnesses, stationery, sealing wax, &c. &c. The judge assured me that I was fortunate in being let off so easily; that what I had to pay was a mere trifle; and, as a proof of his disinterestedness, he added, that by thus compromising the matter he gave up his own fees. It is remarkable that in this rude land the government and judicial per-

quisites are heavier than in our civilised country at home.

Mine host at Ekker was the principal proprietor of land in the parish. He had sixteen cows and eight horses on his farm, which he had engaged to give up to his son next year, and to go and reside himself on another property that he possesses in the neighbourhood. Yet this man was walking about his own farm-yard the greater part of the day without either shoes or stockings, whilst his daughters exposed themselves bare-headed to the heavy rain which we had this week, with as little concern as they had done to the hot sunshine of the previous one.

The few observations Malthus makes on Norway are correct and sensible. He says the climate is remarkably free from epidemic sicknesses, and in common years the rate of mortality is lower than in any other country in Europe, the registers of which are known to be correctly kept. The

peculiar state of Norway throws very strong obstacles in the way of early marriages. There are no large manufacturing towns to take off the superabundant population of the country; and as each village naturally furnishes a supply of hands more than equal to its own demand, a change of place in search of work seldom promises any success. There is but little division of labour in Norway; almost all the wants of domestic economy are supplied in each separate household. Not only the common operations of brewing and baking are carried on at home, but the farmers and country people in general spin their own flax and wool, and weave their own linen and woollen cloths. Fairs are held at certain seasons of the year, and stores of all kinds of provisions that will keep are laid in at these times.

The greatest part of the soil in this country is absolutely incapable of bearing corn, and the climate is subject to very sudden changes, which are frequently fatal to the

crops. One of the principal reasons of the low rate of mortality is, that the towns are inconsiderable and few, and that not many people are employed in unwholesome manufactories. According to the law of succession, all the brothers divide the property equally, and it is a proof how slowly the population has hitherto increased, that the estates have not become more subdivided than they are.

The Norwegians depend very much upon their cattle. The high grounds that border upon the mountains are altogether unfit to bear corn, and the only use to which they can be put is to pasture cattle upon them, for three or four months during the summer. The farmers accordingly send all their stock to these grounds at this time of the year, under the care of part of their families; and it is here that they make all the butter and cheese for sale, and for their own consumption. The great difficulty is to support the cattle during the long winter, and for this purpose it is necessary that a

considerable proportion of the most fertile land in the vallies should be mown for hay. Almost everywhere the cultivation of potatoes has succeeded, and the agriculture of Norway has advanced considerably of late years.

CHAPTER VII.

Character of the Norwegians — Influenced by the climate and scenery around them. — Bishop Pontoppidan. — National costume. — La mode de Paris. — Love of dancing among the Norwegians. — The gay world. — A ball. — Unshod figurantes. — The waltz. — Hand-shaking. — Finkel. — Houses in Norway. — Skill of the natives in carpentering. — House at Ekker. — Noise. — Incessant singing. — Norwegian native music. — Looms. — Seasons. — Continual intrusion of the Norwegian ladies. — Their curiosity. — Their modesty. — A Lapp. — His costume. — His dog.

The mode of life, and the variety of the scenery around the simple peasants of the Norwegian mountains, render their faculties richer in conception, and their hearts warmer

in affections, than if they dwelt amidst uniform plains, and gave themselves up to luxury; so true is it that man, unless altered by education and society, resembles the face of nature around him. Here their distance from populous places, and the scattered situation of their cottages, keep them more closely to their own domestic circle, preserve their manners pure and original, and dispose them to reflection. The openness of heart which they display, their benevolence and affection, together with the good humour and native simplicity legible on their countenances, must endear them to every friend of humanity. How do such scenes fill and warm the heart! In these delightful spots I have even felt myself contented and happy.*

As I shall have occasion, on my return homewards by the western coast, to notice

* Similar were the feelings which I experienced in much earlier life when visiting the Alpine vallies, and their renewal in the glens of Norway was inexpressibly pleasing to me.

some instances of the worthy bishop of Bergen's credulity, I am bound in justice to state, that in many respects his authority on the natural history of Norway is the highest this country possesses. The influence of mountainous scenery on national character is too universal and too well known to require any lengthened notice, but what he says on this point is quite true. "It seems as if the hard and rugged rocks which the Norwegians have continually before their eyes inspired them with a contempt of dangers and difficulties. The great number of beasts of prey seen in these parts oblige them to carry arms betimes, which they know how to handle from their childhood. They are inured to troublesome and fatiguing journies, and ordinary coarse diet serves them as well as the most delicate."

Without going the whole length of Montesquieu's theory of the influences of climate on national character, the invigorating, ele-

vating effect of a mountainous country is undoubted, in all times and in all places; witness the unconquered Cantabrian, the bold unsubdued Basque, and the hardy Swiss. The vast fastnesses of nature have ever been the cradle of personal liberty and independence.

Pontoppidan's description of the costume of the peasantry is equally correct, and just as applicable to the present day as it was when he wrote, eighty years ago. "The Norwegians wear a flapped hat, or a little brown, grey, or black cap on their heads. They have shoes of a peculiar fashion, without heels or what may be properly called soles; they consist of two pieces, namely, the upper leather, which sits close to the foot, to which the other is joined, in a great many plats and folds." I particularly remarked the large flapped hat at Bergen; and the peculiar shoes are worn by all the men in the neighbourhood of the Namsen. From their distant and isolated position, and the little intercommunication

with foreigners, this ancient costume has been handed down unchanged from father to son, from very early times, and it is pleasing to see this picturesque and peculiar form of apparel, when we reflect upon the fatal inroads *la mode de Paris* is making throughout Europe, by obliterating all distinctive dress, destroying nationality, and reducing mankind to one hideous uniformity of round hats and long-tailed coats, a combination of form so diametrically opposed to the beautiful, that nothing but the perverse ingenuity of a Frenchman could have devised it, and nothing but the tyranny of fashion could have rendered it endurable.

Terpsichore has many votaries in Norway. The long winter evenings render in-door and domestic amusements a matter of primary importance. Now the dance, from time immemorial, has been considered to be an admirable method of keeping up the circulation, of preventing chilblains, and of promoting a little innocent flirtation

between the youth of both sexes, under the patronage and inspection of admiring parents and grandmothers. The performance at these rude Norse balls makes up in vigour of movement and in intensity of enjoyment for the want of the appurtenances and appliances of Messrs. Weippert and Gunter. There is none of the languor and bore of the fastidious sated capital. These assembled peasants are indeed the gay world, and deserve the epithet far better than many a fashionable crowd upon which it is bestowed. The pleasures of these mountaineers are simple, the sinews of their legs strong, and they go to work with the hearty good-will and the *abandon* of children; their whole soul and body are in their holiday, and they never throw away any chance of indulging on the "light fantastic toe." It happened that an Englishman on his travels last year, being tired of his own company, and anxious to see what the aborigines were like, as the best mode of collecting them together, ventured on the experiment of getting up a ball. One single bad fiddle

collected them in swarms, and he was more pleased than if he had seen all the bears in Norway which Mr. Lloyd did *not* shoot. The performers, on their side, were enraptured, and the evening has become a "bright spot in memory's waste" for them to look back upon. This year, learning that another Englishman was in these parts, and having associated the abstract idea of a free-born Briton with a fiddle, just as the French do with a rost-bif de mouton, they sent a deputation to the stranger, to beg him to give them a little dance, for the sake of charity. He was nothing loth, and accordingly one evening there assembled some twenty couples, and two crazy fiddles. The fair Helen of Fossland was the decided belle, and whatever might be the judgment of Paris, her pirouettes were the admired of all admirers on this occasion. Some of her fair companions were as innocent of shoes and stockings as the dancing hours in the Aurora of Guido of the Rospigliosi palace at Rome, but they had equally pretty feet, and knew how to use them; and how much

more picturesque is the real unsophisticated foot, the work of nature, than the slipper, be it even a Cinderella's, which is but the work of nature's journeyman; then there is the novelty of the nudity, to say nothing of its being so classical, so Grecian, so antique. These unshod figurantes excelled particularly in the waltz, and circled round the humble saloon, revolving like sparkling stars. The merest child waltzes with the greatest ease, and the women display a grace and an elegance in this apparently national dance which could not have been surpassed even at Almack's. They keep the most perfect circle, and even in a small room so regular was the order they observed that not a single *concussion* took place during the whole evening. When a couple have completed their gyrations, instead of retiring, they step forward into the centre, and all that are dancing waltz round them, which is a far better plan than retiring behind the dancers, as with us. The Norse belles are particularly decorous in their behaviour; and after

you have danced with one of them, she shakes you by the hand, by way of expressing her thanks; as they all likewise did after partaking of the refreshment with which they were supplied, and which they stood much in need of after all their exertions, for they dance with the greatest spirit, not only the waltz, but also a variety of reels. They are extremely quick in learning new dances, and upon the present occasion were taught Sir Roger de Coverley, which they managed remarkably well.

The gentlemen imbibed a considerable quantity of finkel; whilst the ladies sipped tea, or at least what passes in this country for the herb of China, with a slight dash of the national aquafortis by way of cream and sugar. In consequence of copious indulgence in these potations, the gentlemen of the party, about that period of the morning when Aurora tinges the east with 'roseate hues,' became uproarious, and it was deemed expedient to still the tumult by a

somewhat unceremonious dismissal of the fiddlers. Barring the extra animation induced by the "finkel," nothing could be more correct, or *comme il faut*, than the conduct of all parties during this evening, which was quite as amusing to the foreigners as to the natives.

In a country of wood, such as Norway, it will naturally be expected that this material should enter largely into the construction of the dwellings of the inhabitants. Two purposes are answered by the cutting down the trees which grow spontaneously in every direction; first, ground is thereby cleared for cultivation and pasture; secondly, a ready means is provided for erecting places of shelter for man and beast. The same process that is going on in the primeval forests of Canada and North America has also long been in operation among the Norwegians. They, however, construct their log-houses or wooden residences with much more skill and durability than is usual with the settlers in the new world,

who, coming to a country totally different from their own, have, as it were, to learn their trade. This is not the case among the sturdy denizens of a Norwegian wood; they have been born and bred hewers of timber, and have inherited the knack of constructing their houses with it, just as naturally as the birds build their nests. They build solidly and simply, and fill up and caulk the interstices between the large logs of wood very neatly with moss, while the roofs are covered with birch bark, and that again with turf, on which grows a plentiful crop of grass, thus keeping out the piercing cold of their long and severe winters. They very wisely look more to the interior comforts than to the exterior decoration, and in consequence of this their dwellings are far inferior in appearance to the picturesque cottages of the Swiss; they have, however, no tourists of taste to admire them, no artists and young ladies to sketch them, and therefore attend only to essentials. Their foes are the snow storm and the icy blasts of Boreas, and

their houses are so many citadels of defence against them.

A description of the house we lived in at Ekker, and which was one of the best in the whole district, will give an idea of the usual arrangement of them all. It is only one story high; its outward appearance is plain and neat, and it is coloured with ochre. In the centre is a large chimney; the roof is of tiles, and the entrance-door, as well as the windows, are, at this season of the year, kept open all night. On the ground-floor are two rooms, each twenty feet long, and one smaller one, with stoves in each, and the kitchen and pantry are in the centre. From the hall you ascend, by a convenient staircase, to the upper rooms, in which are several good sleeping apartments, chiefly occupied by the family. My dormitory, however, was at one end of the house, and, although the largest of all, could only be reached by a ladder. Beyond it was another chamber, containing the loom, to which the family had free ingress and

egress, passing through my room at all hours of the day and night, without knocking. Some of these rooms were panelled, and others not. The windows were both numerous and large, containing a great quantity of glass, which is manufactured in different parts of Norway, but is of an inferior quality. The stock of provisions for the winter was kept in a small detached building in the yard, standing on four stone pillars, like our corn chambers, to keep out their indigenous rats. In this store-room was an immense pile of oaten cakes, thin as wafers, and the size of a large dish, with bacon, salt fish, dried salmon, eggs, cheese, butter, meal, &c. Another separate building was a wash-house, and adjoining to this was a succession of outhouses, barns, and stables for the cattle.

These houses are admirably adapted to the wants of those for whom they were put up, and who, from long habit, are reconciled to inconveniences which annoy the stranger. The two most serious evils are

the noise, and the total want of privacy, the impossibility, in fact, of ever enjoying the luxury of being quiet and alone. The inmates seem to have entered into a conspiracy "to murder sleep." "Blessed be the man who invented sleep," exclaims Sancho Panza; "it wraps a man up as it were in a cloak." This wrapping up may be easy enough in his indolent siesta-loving land, but it is quite a different thing in Norway, although in winter the night extends over many more days than it does hours in the south. Wood, as every one knows, is a potent conductor of sound, and in these tree houses there is nothing to stop it when once it is started; there are no brick walls, nor even lath and plaster; and the smallest whisper pierces through the log partitions like a gimlet.

The Norwegian females are full of untaught harmony. Whenever their hands or legs are in active employment (that is nineteen hours out of the twenty-four) their minds are idle, and this absence of thought

is indicated by singing, just as it is by the ceaseless whistling of our English ploughboys. In truth, everywhere a song seems to dispense with sense, from the Italian opera downwards:—"Ce qui ne vaut pas la peine d'être dit l'on le chante," is one of the fundamental principles of the philosophy of music. The tunes to which their unmeaning Norse ditties are set are melancholy and plaintive, and remind me of the modinhas of Portugal, and the ceaseless doleful song of the Spanish muleteer.

It is quite clear that the songs of the Norwegian maidens are as old as their hills. All writers on music are agreed that in its early unsophisticated state the airs were slow, sad, and devoid of ornament, flourishes, and variations. It was the voluptuous taste of Italy, and the complicated intellect of Germany, which first corrupted pure and simple harmony, and introduced by degrees the present forced, elaborate, and scientific system. The Norwegians know nothing of all these novelties and niceties; nor have

their ears ever been scarified by French performances, those "*miaulements et tintamarre du diable,*" as Gray justly defines the Grande Opera de Paris, and which Rousseau compares to the cries of the colick: "*Laisse donc pour jamais cet ennuyeux et lamentable chant Français, qui ressemble aux cris de la colique, mieux qu'aux transports des passions.*"

No teachers or masters ever give lessons to the vocal sisterhood of the foss and the fiord; they warble out their "wood notes wild" like the feathered tribes of their own forests. Love and war, passion and pathos, have ever been the theme of the national ballads of all countries in their unsophisticated state; the melancholy plaintive tone is everywhere the same, and may be traced alike on the banks of the Indus, the Nile, the Tagus, and the Namsen. It is only where the artificial process of civilisation has interfered that these natural notes are no longer heard. Climate exercises no influence on the character of these aborigi-

nal melodies; and where there is no disturbing and counteracting element, they are handed down unchanged from generation to generation; they are the first lessons taught to the retentive ear of infancy, which is lulled to rest by the prescriptive tunes of the nursery; and however that effect may unfortunately be changed in Norway, as regards adult and insomnolescent strangers, the tune continues the same. These Norwegian songs flow out in an everlasting flood, which is comparable alone to the ceaseless flow of their own rivers. The ordinary accompaniment to them is but *slightly* musical; it is the shuttle and click of the busy loom. In these rude districts commerce has scarcely penetrated, and each family manufactures every thing for itself; the fields grow the flax, and the females, old and young, spin and weave it into the cloth for their coarse and simple garments. Whenever a woman has a moment to spare, in the day or night, she rushes to her loom, and commences her song and her work. The loom affords also occupation for the

long winter, which extends over six or seven months, when the earth is deep in snow, and the sun seldom rises above the horizon. But Providence, which tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, has, in its wise adaptations, rendered this long winter, at the very mention of which we English tremble and shudder, the season of enjoyment and relaxation to the Norwegians. They then repose after the unceasing labours of the summer, during which, like their sun, they hardly ever set, or know night and rest. The long continuance of daylight acts upon vegetation like the forcing heat of a hothouse, the growth of every thing is most rapid, and therefore much labour is crowded into a very short space; no time is to be lost; the seed must at once be sown; it grows up, it ripens in a moment, and must be cut and harvested as quickly, or the summer is over. Then there are the cattle to be attended to; in short, the arm and foot of labour are never still. If, however, they work hard during their long day, they take a full allowance

of compensating rest during their still longer night. Confined to their warm houses, then is the period of junketting and domestic merry-making; but be it summer or be it winter they are always singing and weaving; indeed this latter occupation comes nearer to perpetual motion than any thing else. Byron talks of the delight of being lulled to sleep by falling waters; but although we are in the land of the stream and the cataract, their sleep-promoting effect is neutralized by this fatal contrivance for making bad linen, and whenever by any accident mother or daughter, mistress or maid, leave the loom, vain is the hope that they will "leave me, leave me to repose," for they are always fidgetting in and out of the stranger's bed-room on some idle pretence or another. Their houses were not made for receiving guests; and therefore when one arrives he is put with well-meant civility into the best room, and this best room is unfortunately the place where their little stores and stock of household and necessary articles are stowed away; and

as something is always wanted to be got out or to be put back, the result is an eternal treadmill of intrusion, with a concomitant creaking of floors, opening and slamming of doors, shutting of drawers, and fastening of presses, all of which, of course, convert the first nodding approaches of slumber into all the lengthened horrors of complete wide-awake vigilance. As they are accustomed to live all together, almost like sheep in a fold, they have no idea of privacy, or that there is any indiscretion or rudeness in breaking in upon that of others; and those who go 1,500 miles to see them, and to stare at their outlandish ways, must remember, that marvellous as a Norwegian or a Lapp may be to a steam-imported Londoner, his amazement is nothing when compared to the wild curiosity which is displayed on their parts, as regards himself. The stranger is indeed strange to them; his sayings and doings are like nothing which they have ever heard or seen before; and therefore all that a traveller puts on or

puts off, all that he does, and every thing he uses, are to them matters of surprise, and elements of useful and entertaining knowledge. Nor are they contented with merely feasting their eyes; they next proceed to touch and to try, to rummage and turn over, being determined to ascertain whether all before them be not an unsubstantial vision. 'Toothbrushes indubitably are among the inventions of a high state of civilisation; the Norwegian boor knows no more of them than does his bear; and as to personal lavations, the water is much too cold, and generally in too solid a state, for the idea of using it to enter into their imaginations; they leave the undivided enjoyment of the element to the seal and the salmon. These investigations of our toilets were sometimes so elaborate that it became necessary to use a gentle violence, and eject the fair intruders politely by the door; but into what place will not the powerful energy of female inquiry penetrate? "Naturam expelles furcâ, tamen usque recur-

ret;" they are soon back again, and as this is a country in which Bramah could not earn bread, there is no keeping them out. Curiosity, like love, "laughs at locksmiths," even in lands where there are plenty of locks and padlocks, all of the best make, and double patent; here nothing is patent but the doors, which are never closed; but to make up for this, honesty reigns supreme; every thing you possess, your purse included, is as perfectly safe in their hands as if it were in "a ten times barred up chest."

Nor is there in all their intrusions and peepings a grain of indecency or malice prepense; they live with such perfect freedom among themselves, that many things which our refinement has led us to consider as indelicate are not felt to be so by them. Their moral sentiments are pure; no foul idea harbours in their bosoms; they are in act and thought as chaste as their own icicles; but as the Norse ladies will pass backwards and forwards through

the bed chamber of the stranger, let him look as much surprised and horror-stricken as he will, it may be as well for the peculiarly modest traveller to bring out with him one of those portable padlocks, which may soon be fixed into the timber door; he well then feel, as every Briton should feel, that the wooden walls are his best defence.

A thorough-bred Lapp has spent a few hours with us this evening; he appeared to be a regular chasseur, and to be passionately fond of his vocation. He had left the encampment of his countrymen ten weeks since, and had come to the mouth of the Namsen in pursuit of otters and seals; he had shot five of the latter, and we purchased two skins of him. In his pocket he carried a stick, in which were inserted seven circular pieces of metal, to mark the number of bears he had killed. To his girdle was appended a formidable knife, always kept open, and a small piece of leather, in which he kept a needle for mending his shoes. He wore a loose dress entirely made of leather,

and over this a blouse of coarse linen. He was very muscular, but his stature was much under the common size, and his remarkably expressive countenance denoted both acuteness and intelligence. I never before beheld such eyes; they appeared to look through you, so small, dark, and piercing were they, and yet there was nothing malevolent or repulsive in their expression. Altogether he was one of the most extraordinary looking beings I had ever seen. I was desirous of hiring him as a guide, to conduct us to see his countrymen; and indeed he engaged to do so, but broke his word, and went away alone during the night, anxious, no doubt, to join his wife, children, and rein-deer, as soon as possible. We gave him a little English gunpowder, which he seemed to value highly, and for this present cordially shook us by the hand. He was accompanied by a sharp dog, which he told us had more than once saved his life by worrying the bears, when about to attack him, and thereby giving him the opportunity of making good his fire. He carried two guns.

CHAPTER VIII.

Start in search of the Lapps. — Our cavalcade. — Difficult route. — The crops. — Fiskum. — A family circle. — The schoolmaster abroad. — A drunken guide. — Halt for the night. — Magnificent cascade. — Fatal accident. — Grouse. — Wasps' nest. — Halt at Tracken. — Cradle. — Forest roads. — Lapp's hut. — A mishap. — Severe illness. — Jersviken. — Halt for the night. — Curiosity of our hostess. — Signs of the Lapps. — Rorvigen. — Wooden church. — Half-yearly services. — Funerals. — Halt. — Bark bread. — Von Buch. — Pontoppidan. — Our host. — Scarceness of soap. — Fox-skins. — Return of our guides. — Near approach to the Lapps.

On the 23d of August, we set off in search of the Lapps, who, we had been informed, were encamped about seventy miles off. Our two acquaintances, Captain L—— and Mr. R——, joined our party;

and we had the schoolmaster, who for twenty years had gone every summer to instruct the Lapps in reading and writing, as our guide; our interpreter, and the two owners of the horses, who always attend them, completed our cavalcade of eight persons. In starting from Ekker, the wild appearance of the horses, the rudeness of the saddlery, and the varieties of costume, presented a curious scene. Our baggage was carried by a sumpter horse.

The road followed the course of the Namsen the whole of our journey this day of four Norse miles, through almost one continued forest, intersected by grassy tracts, and spaces cleared for oats and barley. The peasants were engaged in reaping some fields of the latter grain, which they have a simple but effectual mode of drying, binding it round a high pole in such a form that the upper sheaf alone can get wet, or be injured by the weather. The crop was excellent this year, and the potatoes looked very promising.

We halted for half an hour, after passing through Fiskum and Gartland, two hamlets, the former having a neat little church, situated on the top of a high hill, and commanding a pretty view of the serpentine course of the river below, with its banks clothed with woods of pine, birch, and alder, down to the very edge of the water.

We stopped also to admire the Fiskum Foss, where the river has an unbroken fall from a considerable height; but we all agreed in opinion that this cascade was not equal in picturesque beauty to the upper one at Lerdal. Whilst we were baiting our horses, I went into a cottage, which reminded me of an Irish hovel; in the one, as in the other, the suffocating smoke made its partial escape through a large aperture at the top. By the fire sat an old patriarch of the age of eighty, with his wife by his side, who had arrived at very nearly the same advanced period of life, and a large group

of their children and grand-children. The old man had an expression of placid contentment so forcibly marked on his countenance, that I could not help saying, how glad I felt to see him looking apparently so happy; he said in reply, that he really was so, and told me with pride that he had no less than sixty descendants! Whilst our milk was boiling, I was much amused by studying the manners and deportment of this large family, of which an artist might have made a very interesting sketch. The style of dress of several of the females somewhat approached to a state of nudity. The younger girls had pretty countenances; and I presented two of them with a skilling each, for which, as usual, they shook my hand.

Our guide, the schoolmaster, had been our avant-courier, but this demure looking man, so quiet and steady when I engaged him yesterday, we found upon our arrival here to-day to be already "o'er all the ills of life victorious." In other words,

he had become completely intoxicated from the immoderate use of "finkel," and was dancing about like a mad harlequin. This vice of drunkenness, as I have before remarked, is the besetting sin of the Norwegians.

With this drunken guide we proceeded through forests and over marshes, frequently up to our horses knees in mire; but drunk as he was he seemed to know his way thoroughly, and always waited for us when we came to any difficult pass.

We had now left both road and path, and struggled onwards, through "the blind mazes of the tangled wood," our progress being every moment impeded by the roots of the numerous trees which had been blown down by the hurricane, and it was eleven o'clock before we reached our resting place for the night.

The weather, however, was very favourable, and although there was no moon,

yet it was not very dark, and our sure-footed horses carried us safely through one of the most dangerous passes that I ever saw. The fatigue of riding for fourteen hours in such rude saddles, and through such a country, was very great, and we were not a little rejoiced when we at length arrived at a solitary tenement called Troness, where we had to disturb all the inmates out of their first sleep. A good fire soon blazed, the provisions we had brought with us were spread out, and we all heartily enjoyed our meal.

Our two companions swung their hammocks, and I and my son occupied the only spare beds the place afforded. We here found the calico bags which we had brought with us of great service, there being no sheets. Our covering was a clean sheep skin. Our two attendants were sisters; pretty girls, apparently of seventeen and eighteen, with good complexions, and remarkably fine eye-brows and lashes, their beautiful flaxen hair hanging in ringlets

over their shoulders. I was surprised to hear that one of them was a married woman, and had an infant. We enjoyed five hours rest, and I escaped catching cold, although Æolus and all his subject winds came in at the broken window, and through the innumerable crevices of the room.

The church, in which service is performed once a year, stands in a small open plain near the road. During this day's journey we crossed several ferries. In one place the river forms a kind of lake, four miles in length, at the end of which it discharges itself from a considerable height, in one unbroken sheet of water, between black rocks rising like pyramids. The thunder of this noble cataract is heard at a great distance, and seems to shake all the surrounding rocks. We went through a fine grove, and clambered down the rocky precipices, to get a view of this magnificent foss, one of the many sublime objects in this country of wonders.

A melancholy catastrophe happened here not long since: a poor girl, quite alone, after rowing down the lake in a small boat, had not strength to resist the force of the current, but was drawn into the whirlpool which the rapids form, and carried headlong over the foss! Such was the rapidity of the stream, that her body was found several miles below. Some peasants distinctly heard her cries as her frail bark approached the fall, but no earthly power could have saved her from destruction. As we rowed past the eddy, we had remarked how dangerous it was, and we shuddered when we afterwards heard the account of this fatal accident.

On the 24th of August we set off at eight in the morning, and passed through the same kind of country, and over the same bogs, a perfect flat, and one continued forest. We found some hazel hens, or hazel grouse*, and also a brood of caper-

* Tetrao bonasia. This bird is not much bigger than a partridge, and its colour is a combination of

cailzie.* I killed one of the former, but could not find it. Captain L—— was far more successful; he bagged five capercailzie and a leash of hazel hens. We observed a curious wasps' nest hanging to one of the fir trees, and many large ant hills from three to four feet in height.

We made a short journey this day of only two Norse miles; and, leaving our horses, took a long walk of six hours through the woods. The weather was so hot that we were all greatly fatigued, and I unfortunately met with no sport. A capercailzie, sitting on a tree only twenty yards from me, gave me a famous chance, but my gun missed fire twice. My son, however, was delighted at killing one of

brown, white, grey, and red. It inhabits the thickest woods, and its flesh is delicious.

* Tetrao urogallus: wood grouse. It inhabits extensive and mountainous woods, and is the largest bird of this order, bigger even than the turkey. It is slate coloured, and finely striped across with black. Naturalists state that it is found in northern Asia as well as Europe. It is imported into England from Norway during the winter in a frozen state.

these noble birds. They do not afford much sport, flying heavily when they rise, and frequently sitting in a tree, from which they stupidly look at you.

In the evening we reached a solitary and small house at Trachen, romantically situated on a green spot between two woods. It was occupied by a poor labourer, who kept a few cows, and eked out a miserable livelihood by occasionally catching trout in a neighbouring lake. He had a wife and one young child; and the tenement and its inhabitants were equally poor and dirty.

The house afforded no other beds but hay, on which we slept for the first time in our lives, our bed-room being in a loft rudely built of logs of wood. Getting into my cotton bag, without however taking off my clothes, and with a rein-deer skin by way of counterpane, I slept soundly, in spite of the heat, and the bites of those unmerciful blood-suckers the musquitoes, with which the air was filled. We cared

little for these hardships, having fine weather, and an object of great interest in view.

We remarked a singular kind of cradle here, in which the infant was swung; it exactly resembled a mummy-case, except that it was covered with leather, the head only of the child being visible.

On the 25th we continued our route through the wood, greatly impeded by the branches of the trees, through which we had to force our way; and it was astonishing that our horses could keep their footing. On one occasion the animal that Peter rode stuck up to his middle in the mud, and it required the strength of four men to pull him out; another horse fell, and the rider slipt off his back without injury.

We now quitted the fir woods, and crossed by a long and tedious ascent a high and barren mountain. On the sides were occasional patches of birch, which is a more

hardy tree than the fir, but even these at length disappeared, and we saw nothing around us but granite rocks, partially covered with clouds, and many small lakes, one of which was about a mile in length.

Soon after leaving Tracken this morning, we found, in the midst of a large wood, a Lapp's hut, of a conical shape, and entirely constructed of the bark of trees, with an entrance on one side. It was just high enough for a man to stand upright in, and the only thing it contained was a wooden bowl. Our guide informed us that this hut had been made in the spring of the present year, and was occupied by a Lapp who brought his reindeer to the neighbourhood in search of pasture, and sometimes, for this purpose, took them nearly as low down as Ekker.

I had been walking for some miles to-day, and desired my servant to go in advance, and bring back my horse; but he misunderstood me; and the road turning

suddenly, I found I had lost sight of the whole party, and was left in the rear. I wandered about for an hour and a half, and could no longer distinguish the path, which was marked by stones, piled on the top of each other. The clouds were gathering around me, and a thunder-storm, accompanied with rain, commenced. My situation was any thing but agreeable; and to increase my discomfort, I was far from well. After some reflection, I determined to remain near the spot where my companions had separated from me, in the assurance that they would all return to seek me. At length the shouting from one of my party sounded most musically to my ear, and I soon again joined them. They had been under considerable alarm on my account; some thought, knowing I was ill, that I had fainted, and others that I was lost in one of the clouds which hung upon the mountain. Had the latter been the case, they were so dense that I must have passed the night on the bare rock. After this *contretemps* I proceeded slowly on

horseback six English miles further, to the quarters which we were to occupy for the night at Jersviken, a solitary tenement situated on a lake, in the centre of a basin formed by the surrounding hills, the lower parts of which are thinly covered by scattered trees, principally birch. My whole system was out of order, and during all my rambles I never was in a situation where I could less afford to be laid up by illness. However, thanks to that gracious Providence which has so long blessed me with good health, my indisposition soon passed off. I had the comfort of knowing that I had brought some medicines with me in case of need; but happily I did not require them; a sound sleep on a good bed of hay, and reindeer skins again, in lieu of blankets, restored me to health. We did not occupy a loft, as we had done the previous night, but slept, all four of us, in one of the two rooms of which the miserable cabin consisted. It was filled with a compound of villainous smells, and as dirty as can well be imagined. The cross-planks above our

beds were a receptacle for a much greater variety of articles than I can enumerate: wooden bowls, baskets, a pair of shoes, spectacles without handles, a spinning machine, buckets, copper boilers (in which we made our capercáilzie soup), brooms, bottles, candlesticks, rakes, ladders, &c., &c., all dingy and black from continual smoke. The fish I could not see, but our olfactory nerves were affected by it in no small degree, and I afterwards found that it was kept under the floor of our room, in a large well covered by a trap-door. We kept up a good fire to purify the atmosphere as far as was possible. After preparing some bouillon for my supper, and taking all the care of me which affection could dictate, my son had to sleep on the hard table, with only a cloak to cover him.

I was much amused in watching the proceedings of the old woman of the house, and a young girl who was with her. When we were all supposed to be wrapt in the mantle of sleep, they paced through our

room with a silent step, and minutely examined our dressing-cases, and all the contents of our carpet-bag; a very natural curiosity, considering we were probably the first tourists, and certainly the only Englishmen, that had passed this way. We found some reindeer horns to-day; a sure sign that the Lapps had been in these parts.

On the next morning our guide, the schoolmaster, proceeded alone, at half past three, in search of the Lapps, not having been as yet able to ascertain where they were encamped, as they very frequently shift their position. Some of our party started at eleven o'clock by land, and had good sport, having met with a flock of wild geese, and an abundance of ptarmigan; whilst Captain L. and I went across the lake in a small boat, a distance of six English miles, to Rorvigen, where our *avant-courier* was to join us, as soon as he had obtained the necessary information. This lake, named Limingen, is upwards of twenty miles in length. We landed, and

went to a very decent log-house, with several outbuildings around it, belonging to a small farmer. There was also a church, the humblest edifice of the kind I ever remember to have seen, built entirely of wood, as they generally are, with its pretty spire, tapering to a fine point. Its situation was lovely,—on the margin of the lake, with mountains all around,—some barren, others clothed with birch and aspen, with here and there a patch of snow in the hollows. We entered this primitive temple. At the back of the altar hung a piece of blue linen, with some paper ornaments around, and a cross above. On the communion table was a small goblet of silver, and by the side a rudely executed painting of our Saviour, attended by an angel; near this were hung the surplice and robe of the priest, of maroon coloured velvet; there was also a small font. The pulpit and benches appeared new; but there was no paint used in any part of the interior; every thing was remarkably plain and simple. In the churchyard were several graves, surmounted by

crosses, with the names of the deceased on some of them, and on others only the initials. A priest comes here once and sometimes twice a year; his visit is generally in the summer, when the Lapps come down from their mountains to attend the service, and it must be a highly interesting sight to witness such a congregation so engaged, and in so secluded and beautiful a region; afterwards marriages are solemnized and infants are christened, and finally the funeral service is read by the minister over the bodies of all those who have been buried by the Lapps themselves since his last visit. Whenever a death takes place the relatives bring the corpse down to the nearest church, and the spot of sepulture is marked by a stick stuck into the earth. When the schoolmaster is here he reads the prayers and the psalms in the church; and during his absence he has a deputy, who generally performs the same duty.

We took up our quarters for the night at this farm, and after what we had expe-

rienced the day before every thing appeared neat and clean. The log-houses of this country are not well finished, nor picturesque in their appearance, like the chalets of Switzerland, but are rudely constructed of firs, with the insterstices between them filled up with moss, which very imperfectly keeps out the wind. Two of our party occupied a building almost new, and consisting of a kitchen and bedroom, which the priest always lived in when here, whilst my son and I slept soundly on hay and reindeer skins, after having supped luxuriously on the highly flavoured game we had killed. The kettle which we had brought with us from Ekker to boil our tea and coffee in was invaluable.

Yesterday we tasted bark bread for the first time. The process of making this most wretched of all human food is thus described by Von Buch:—"When the young and vigorous fir trees are felled, to the great injury of the woods, the tree is

stripped of its bark for its whole length; the outer part is carefully peeled from the bark, the deeper interior covering is then shaved off, and nothing remains but the innermost rind, which is extremely soft and white. It is then hung up several days in the air to dry, and afterwards baked in an oven; it is next beat on wooden blocks, and then pounded as finely as possible in wooden vessels; but all this is not enough; the mass is yet to be carried to the mill, and ground into coarse meal like barley or oats. The meal is mixed up with *hexel*, with thrashed-out ears of corn, or with a few moss seeds, and large and thin cakes, called 'flad brod,' are formed of this composition, which keep for many months." Pontoppidan, with some humour, terms the use of the bark bread "a disagreeable but sure method of preserving life." To-day, however, we fared much better, for our landlord kept seven cows and a few sheep, and we ordered one of the latter to be killed. Its price was four marks (three shillings and four-pence English), and its

weight about forty pounds. The farmer, a widower with three children, lived almost entirely on his own resources, having to send ten Norse miles to purchase barley (as no grain will grow so far north as this district), with which he mixes the bark just mentioned. We saw his stores for the winter, which consisted of ill-flavoured cheeses, and candles of his own manufacture; but we inquired in vain for soap, which seemed to be a luxury never heard of in these parts. He had a variety of fox skins, all belonging to the Lapps, and sent here to dry. For one of these, of a brown colour, and beautifully marked, he asked three dollars; a high price, which, however, he seemed confident of obtaining by sending it to Sweden. The lake affords abundance of fish, so that, with the exception of good bread, our host has not much reason to complain of being in want of the common necessaries of life.

Our schoolmaster returned this evening, accompanied by the Lapp who had deserted

us so unceremoniously at Ekker. He informed us that the objects of our search were only two Norse miles from us, three fourths of which distance we could go in a boat, and the remainder on foot. We consequently determined to set off as early as four o'clock the next morning, in order that we might be able to return the same night to our quarters at this farm-house.

CHAPTER IX.

Bad weather. — Lake Limingen. — Sœtter hut. — Our guide. — Arrival at a Lapp encampment. — Kind reception. — Lapp tent. — Its contents. — Peter Johansen and family. — A young herdsman. Reindeer milk. — Venison. — Costume of the ladies. Lucifer matches. — Finkel. — Habits of the Lapps. — Religious observances. — A night among the Lapps. — Close-packing. — The reindeer. — Milking. — Leave-taking. — The origin of these children of the mountain. — Their wandering lives. The moss. — Its great utility. — The Lapland breed of dogs. — Anecdote. — Von Buch. — The reindeer. — Hospitality of the Lapps. — Von Buch's opinion of them. — Care taken of his reindeer and dogs by the Laplander. — Migrations of the Lapps.

The next morning, 27th August, was rainy, and the hills were all covered with clouds; we breakfasted at four, on broiled capercailzie, and brandy and water, but were

weather bound at Rorvigen till three o'clock P.M., when we embarked in two small and crazy boats on Lake Limingen. There was far more motion than I liked, the nature of our vessels being duly considered. We were, however, safely landed on some rocks, after a row of about ten English miles, and then set off to walk four more, partly through woods. In our route we passed by a sœtter hut, where, as I have before remarked, the peasants who pasture their cows in the neighbourhood keep their milk, cream, and cheeses. We next crossed some barren mountains; and at about half past seven our guide (the Lapp) desired us not to fire at a pack of ptarmigan which got up close to us, for fear, he said, of disturbing the reindeer, as he every moment expected to find his countrymen. Soon after, as we were all walking in single file, and keeping perfect silence, he stopt suddenly, and pointing with his finger directed our attention to some smoke just seen through the twilight, curling up the side of the opposite hill. The man's manner and attitude were

quite dramatic, and we had the satisfaction of feeling that our object was about to be attained. The Lapp now tied up his dog, and ran off, evidently much rejoiced at the idea of rejoining his wife and family, after an absence of several months. He was also anxious to inform his countrymen who we were, and what brought us here, as he had some fear lest they would take alarm, and move off with their herd. He soon, however, returned, and at the same time we saw a large number of reindeer driven up the valley to their quarters for the night, by a man and boy, accompanied by a dog, whose occasional bark seemed to keep them under perfect control. Upon our arrival we found the encampment consisted of two circular tents built of poles joined together in the centre, in form of a cone, with cloth stretched over them. The door of the larger one, in which we took up our abode, was so low and small, that we had some difficulty in crawling in. The whole scene was highly picturesque. Each tent was occupied by a Lapp family; every indi-

vidual gave us a most kind reception, and heartily shaking us by the hand, at once offered us a share of their tent, the only night's lodging they had to give. We thankfully accepted their hospitality, and soon found ourselves laying on skins before a large and cheerful fire. The inhabitants of the hut comprised three generations of Lapps; namely, a middle-aged man and his wife, with four children and an old grandmother; to these were now added our party, consisting of four Englishmen, their two interpreters, and two other attendants. The tent was made of coarse dark cloth, and the outside of it was covered with turf; around the inside were hung cheeses, bladders, dried gut of reindeer, guns, and various other useful articles. The chief part of the smoke escaped through a large opening at the top, but enough remained painfully to affect our eyes, and to give the copper countenances of the Lapps a shade as dark as those of Indians. The second family, who occupied the smaller tent, namely, our late Lapp guide,

Peter Johansen, his wife and two children, soon came to pay us a visit. I have already described his person. His wife and daughter had light hair and fair complexions, and were pleasing in their appearance, and his little boy was an intelligent and interesting child, and although under ten years of age took his turn with the men in watching the reindeer during the night. He was dressed in his best clothes, entirely made of skins, with a girdle round his waist, and such a protuberance in front as to give him the appearance of being stuffed, and greatly to excite our laughter. He wore his knife in its case behind, and several small ornaments by his side; thus forming a complete Lilliputian Lapp in full costume.

We were soon presented with a large bowl of reindeer milk, which is much richer than that of the cow, and has a delicate and aromatic flavour, with a pleasant taste, resembling the milk of the cocoa-nut; but I found I could not take much of it with impunity, as it was more like drinking

cream than milk. They also boiled for us a reindeer ham, which had only been salted two days before. We found it so good, that upon taking our departure next morning we were glad to add it to our scanty store of provisions. It has a wild flavour, and is quite equal to our park venison.

The old grandmother was as shrivelled as a mummy, but the other two women were by no means ill looking. Their dress was of dark woollen cloth, with silver ornaments in front, as well as in the girdle round the waist, to which sewing implements were suspended. These ornaments were in good taste, and well finished; and the buttons were similar to those used by the peasantry in Spain. I have no doubt this smart costume was put on in compliment to us. The dress of the men consisted of leather coats, and tight trousers of the same material, with reindeer skin boots. All the females smoked; and the old woman seemed more pleased with having her pipe filled with tobacco brought from England

than with any thing else that we gave her. Some boxes of Lucifer matches which we presented to them were also highly prized; they had evidently never seen them before, and expressed no small astonishment at the manner in which ignition is effected. We regretted we had no fish-hooks, which they inquired for; but we gave them a glass of finkel each, which the octogenarian appeared to relish more than any of her descendants. The head of the family (Johan Nielson) was a grave sedate-looking man; decision of character and intelligence were marked on his fine countenance. In reply to the questions I put to him through my interpreter, he said they were happy in the enjoyment of their wandering pastoral life; that they confined themselves to the mountainous ridge which separates Norway from Sweden, the boundary line between these countries being only two English miles from the spot where they were then encamped; that they had been there about eight days; intended to remain a fortnight longer, and should then move onwards for

a change of pasture for their reindeer. He told me that in summer they conduct these animals, which constitute their wealth, to the elevated parts of the mountains, and in the winter they descend to the level country. His herd consisted of about 300, and it appears that a family requires nearly that number for its support. The great proportion of them were his own property, but some belonged to Peter Johansen, and ten to a middle-aged single woman, who lodged with them. These Lapps, although "dwellers in tents" all the year round, are in many respects far from being uncivilized. They strictly observe the sabbath, the best reader of the family officiating as priest, and going regularly through the Lutheran service. Occasionally they attend the church of the nearest village on the frontier of Sweden.

Our guide, the schoolmaster, is employed by the missionary society, and twice in the course of every summer attends the Lapps for the purpose of instructing them.

He stays for three weeks on each occasion, and divides his time between the different families who are encamped many miles apart. This man told me that all the children could read, write, and say their prayers. The Lapps have but few wants, and appear perfectly satisfied; having no bread, they subsist almost entirely on the produce of their herds, with the occasional assistance of fish and game. We saw no other description of food whatever, neither have they any candles; and when we required additional light, one of the women took a firebrand in her hand and held it up for us. On one occasion we wanted to pour some of their delicious milk into our small keg of finkel; in an instant they very ingeniously made a funnel of some of the birch bark which hung round the tent. The sun and stars are their only clock. They had no spirituous liquors, but it is well known that they are generally addicted to inebriety; and doubtless, when the opportunity occurs of going down into the vallies, either of Sweden or of Norway,

they indulge in this their one besetting sin.

Both Nielson and Johansen are great hunters, and occasionally are absent from the encampment for many weeks together, in search of bears, seals, and game. It was nearly midnight before our interesting conference with Johan Nielson was brought to a close. He at length asked us in a civil, I might almost say in a polite manner, whether we felt disposed to sleep. To this we assented; and when all was quiet, and most eyes were closed, I surveyed with no little interest the singular scene around me. Our host lit his pipe, by way of a soporific, laid down his head on his hard pillow, and comfortably puffed himself to sleep. One of the children coming in late, the old grandmother lifted up her large rein-deer covering, and inclosed the young herdsman within its ample folds. It was a fine night, and we felt no inconvenience either from heat or cold. We were, however, as closely packed all round the tent as

negroes in a slave ship, and it would have been difficult for a single additional person to have found a berth. I slept soundly notwithstanding. We were so near the fire, that my foot would have been burnt, had not one of my companions awakened me, and pointed out the danger. It will be long before the details of this night will be forgotten by any of us; and we all regretted that there was no artist amongst us to have sketched some of the more characteristic features of the scene.

We rose at five on the 28th of August, and after breakfasting on the flesh and milk of the reindeer, went up the hill to see the animals themselves. The whole herd was brought together for our inspection; they had sleek skins, and were in the finest condition imaginable, many of their branching antlers being of immense size, and covered with the softest velvet. We were informed that they suffered more from heat than from cold. Nielson's eldest boy, a fine youth of sixteen, now threw a species of

lasso round the horns of one of the deer, and the process of milking the herd began. They yield a very small quantity of milk, but this is made up for by the richness of its quality. These animals are remarkably quiet and gentle, and the Lapps are almost as fond of them as of their children. We made a present of a few skillings to each of the little boys, as their parents had only charged us one ort, or ten-pence English, for the lodging, milk, and several pounds of venison with which they had furnished us.

After purchasing some skins, horns, and lines which we saw the women making from strips of the sinews of the rein-deer, by chewing the ends and twisting one piece on to another till it was of sufficient length, we with regret bade adieu to the Lapps, highly gratified with our visit to these children of the mountain.

Very little is known of the origin of these honest, simple, and hospitable people; they are considered by some to be de-

scended from aboriginal Norwegians, and still to observe the manners and customs of their ancestors ; but by others they are supposed to have sprung from a colony of Finns, although at the present day they are very unlike that race in their physical appearance. From the earliest times they have evinced a roving unsettled disposition, and have led a nomade life, like the ancient Germans, so minutely and admirably described by Tacitus, or like our modern gypsies. Their movements, however, are chiefly regulated by the quantity of moss (lichen rungiferus) which the different localities afford for their reindeer, and which is more abundant in Sweden than in Norway ; but the temperature of the former country is found to be too mild for these animals, who require the bracing air and eternal snows of the latter to preserve their health. How wise and how beneficent are all the dispositions of Providence ! how exact the adaptation of every country to the wants of the creatures who are destined to inhabit it ! The very circumstances which in warmer cli-

mates would be fatal to animal and vegetable life are here, not only not injurious, but absolutely essential to their health and even to their existence. The moss can flourish only amidst snow, and in a climate the temperature of which is uniformly very low; without the moss the reindeer would perish, and on their herds of reindeer entirely depends the prosperity, nay, the very existence of the Lapps. It is this animal which supplies them with clothing, food, the means of locomotion, and the means of obtaining whatever else their simple habits of life require. No other climate will suit these animals; the experiment of introducing them into Scotland has been frequently tried, and has invariably failed; the strangers, deprived of their favourite moss, and of the perpetual snow of their native hills, have pined and died.

The Lapps have a peculiar breed of dogs; they are small, but very sharp and intelligent, and strongly resemble a fox in their general appearance. Of the sagacity

and value of these dogs Von Buch mentions a striking instance which occurred in the winter of 1806. A Lapland mountaineer sent his two children a distance of seven or eight miles, to one of those grassy spots where vegetation appears to go on under the snow during the whole winter; the boys scratched up the snow, filled their nets with grass, and hastened back; but in descending from the fieldt or mountain they were both buried under an immense mass of snow, an avalanche in miniature, which rushed down into the valley; their dog, one of this breed, which had run on before them, returned to the spot where they were completely buried under the snow, and kept scratching so long and so vigorously at it that at last one of the boys was able to get out. He immediately sought for his brother, but not in the right place; the instinct of the dog succeeded better; he found out the exact point, and unintermittingly dug at it till at last he uncovered the other boy also, who was lying on his face, unable to assist himself.

The milk of the reindeer, as I have already stated, is highly valuable; its flesh also supplies a nutritious food during a great part of the year; its sinews are made into thread and cord; its horns into spoons and other domestic utensils, and its skin furnishes the main portion of the Lapp's dress. This animal bears a great resemblance to the stag, but is rather smaller; it possesses much elegance of form, and has even an air of grandeur when viewed in certain attitudes. The females are driven home morning and evening to be milked, and yield about the same quantity as a she goat.

The lichen rungiferus, the reindeer moss, as it is called, grows almost every where in great abundance; this useless looking vegetable, which to appearance dies under a long continuance of heat and drought, immediately recovers new life from the rain. Dry and valueless as it appears, it is one of the most important gifts which the beneficent creator has be-

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stowed on this wild region, for it is the chief support of many thousands of reindeer on the barren summits of the mountains through all the severity of the winter. The deer remove the snow with their feet to get at this to them delicious food, and they cannot thrive without it, nor even live for any length of time.

Von Buch does not appear to have met with so hospitable a reception from the Laplanders as we did; our having been accompanied by one of their own people, as well as by the schoolmaster, to whom they were much attached, was doubtless greatly in our favour.

Von Buch says, "We found the hut or *gamme* at the foot of the hill. They received us, but not in a friendly manner. The Laplanders are not Arabs. Where the spruce and Scotch firs and where birches will not succeed, the nature of man seems equally defective; he sinks in the struggle with necessity and the climate. The

finer feelings of the Laplanders are to be developed by brandy; and as in eastern countries a visit is announced by presents, the glass alone here softens their hostile dispositions. Then indeed the first place of the tent, opposite to the narrow door, is conceded to the stranger. We lie around a room of not more than eight feet in diameter. The fire in the middle causes the draft from the door to ascend, and consequently the back part of the tent (or room) is the most comfortable place, and is occupied by the master and mistress of the family. The children sit next to them, and the servants next to the door.

"When a stranger demands entrance, the Lapland custom is, to keep him standing just in the inside of the door, and sometimes even before a half opened door. The master of the house then asks him the cause of his arrival, and also the news of his country; and if he is pleased with the answer he receives, he at last invites the stranger to approach nearer; he then becomes a member of the family; a place is allotted to

him, and he is entertained with reindeer milk and flesh. The Arab, on the contrary, invites you into his hut, and asks no questions.

"Men and boys, wives and daughters, take the post of watching by turns, and each goes out with several dogs. The welfare and the security of the flock depends almost entirely on these dogs; by them alone is it kept together in the situation selected for it, or, when necessary, driven to another; it is by these dogs also that the wolves, the enemy most dreaded by the Laplanders, are driven away from the reindeer. The timid animal runs frightened up and down the wild mountain when the wolf approaches, and it is only by the exertion of the dogs that the flock is kept together; it is seldom that the wolf will venture to attack these courageous guardians. The dog is to the Laplander what the plough is to the husbandman. When he returns wearied to his *gamme*, he always willingly shares his reindeer flesh and his soup with his dog, which he will hardly do with either father or mother."

The Lapps whom we visited shared all their food with their dogs, and caressed them most affectionately. These people could not prosper in Sweden, if they were prevented from annually roving over the mountains on the Norwegian coasts; for few of the plains in Sweden are high enough to protect the reindeer from the heat and insects of summer; the animals soon grow weak, decline, and die; but Norway gives them an opportunity of reaching snow even in the warmest month in the year. The two kingdoms are, as it were, connected by the periodical migrations of the Laplanders, and whoever shall restrain this race from roaming from the one to the other will not merely destroy their prosperity, but will wholly annihilate them.

CHAPTER X.

Lake Limingen. — Change of weather. - - Narrow escape. — Return to Ekker. — Granite road. — Bivouac. — Troness. — Exorbitant charges. — Honesty of our host. — Englishmen fleeced everywhere. — Troubles of posting in Norway. — Arrive at Ekker. — Tronjeim. — Cathedral. — Christenings. — Hospitality. — A social priest. — Sunday in Norway. — Lutheran Sabbath. — Madame Hombert. — Environs of Tronjeim. — Start for Christiansand. — Magnificent scenery. — Island of Heteren. — Christiansand. — Peasants. — Molde. — Barren country. — Aalesund. — Native simplicity. — Rocky coast. — Fellow passengers. — Wild fowl. — Eider duck. — Rough weather. — Arrive off Bergen.

We now retraced our steps to Lake Limingen. The weather had hitherto been favourable; but soon after we had embarked upon the lake the rain commenced, and continued in heavy showers during the five hours it took us to row a distance of fifteen

miles. The wind was easterly and very cold. Towards the termination of our voyage we were nearly swamped, as on rounding a little promontory a heavy squall caught us, and the waves broke over and into our frail and leaky boat. We were obliged to keep her head to the wind, and constantly to bale out the water. For a short time we were in a state of some danger; but happily the distance from the shore was not great, our two rowers pulled lustily, and we at length landed in safety, but wet to the skin, and perishing with cold. The miserable quarters which we had occupied two nights before now appeared a most welcome asylum to us, and there we again slept.

On the 29th of August we started early on our return to Ekker, and our sure-footed horses carried us in safety over ten miles of bare granite rock, a great part of it so slippery that horses not accustomed to it could not have kept their footing. Some of the party did occasionally fall, without,

however, sustaining any injury. In the middle of the day we halted in a wood, and, after making a large fire, sat around it like a party of Lapps, and eat our venison with that appetite which the fine bracing atmosphere of the North is sure to produce;

> "Oh, there is sweetness in the mountain air
> And life, that bloated ease can never hope
> to share."

We slept at Troness, in the same cottage where we had rested the night after our leaving Ekker.

The next morning, the 30th August, we had a long dispute with our host, respecting his exorbitant charge of seven dollars for supplying us with bread, coffee, and beds for two nights. At length he accepted, but somewhat sulkily, our offer of three. After we had taken our departure, and had proceeded some hundred yards into the wood, he came running after us, and we fully imagined it was to make some fresh demand; but to our surprise and pleasure we found that his sole

object was to bring us four silver spoons which we had left behind us. This was one among the numerous instances that we witnessed of the honesty of the Norwegians of all classes, and I have great satisfaction in recording it. At the same time I must confess that I was somewhat surprised and annoyed at the gross attempt at imposition which I have just mentioned. Englishmen are everywhere supposed to have much superfluous cash, and are fleeced accordingly in all the beaten tracks; but I confess I did not expect to have met with such sharp practice so far North. Extortionate charges are among the chief drawbacks to the pleasure of travelling in most countries; but in Norway a much greater, and one of much more frequent occurrence, is the annoyance you are so constantly exposed to from the farmers to whom the post-horses belong, and who, if you drive them faster than they think expedient, not only remonstrate in a very rough manner, but frequently seize the reins, stop you on your journey, and will not allow you to

proceed till you have pledged yourself to slacken your pace. In the evening we once more arrived in safety at our comfortable quarters at Ekker.

We had visited the Lapps too late in the season, and this had greatly increased the fatigue and difficulty of our journey. I was, however, highly gratified at having been enabled to see a little of the habits of so interesting a people, and altogether the excursion has left a vivid impression on my mind. The scenery also, in many parts of our route, was on the grandest scale, of bold rugged rocks, amidst interminable forests. At the same time I doubt whether I should have undertaken the expedition, had I been aware of the dangers and difficulties which attended it.

We continued at Ekker during the 31st of August and the 1st of September, and on the 2d quitted, with regret, the honest and warm-hearted Johannes Ekker, and his respectable family, and set out on

our return to Tronjeim, where we arrived on the 4th of September.

The next morning, being Sunday, we went to the cathedral, and after the morning service was finished witnessed the ceremony of christening several children. One of the mothers was an interesting looking woman, belonging to the first class of society, who, accompanied by her nurse and infant, afterwards returned home in an old-fashioned carriage gaily painted and gilded, which strongly reminded me of a faded lord mayor's coach.

Tronjeim is noted for the hospitality of its inhabitants. In the evenings of the 5th and 6th of September we dined at the house of Mr. Knudtzon, and met the priest whom we had seen in the morning officiating at the altar. The venerable gentleman smoked his pipe, and entered into all the gaiety of the family circle with much complacency. After the service of the church was once over, Luther was not so strict as Calvin, in making a

distinction between the Sabbath and other days. In the highly respectable family of which I am speaking (one of the first in Tronjeim), the young ladies on Sundays played waltzes on the piano, and danced, the same as on any other day of the week. Laing remarks that the evening of Saturday and the morning of Sunday make the seventh day, or Sabbath, according to the Lutheran church. This probably accounts for the gaiety of the Sunday evenings in Norway. Whilst at Ekker I saw cards introduced occasionally. During their long winter; the better classes are very fond of playing the game of Boston, a kind of whist, and it is the occupation with which they chiefly fill up the intervals between their eating, drinking, and smoking; their chief amusement, however, at that season, is their sledge parties.

We again lodged in a private house, and indeed we had great difficulty in getting any accommodation whatever, as the city was very full, in consequence of the arrival

of two steamers, and the great fire of last year has sadly narrowed the accommodation for travellers. We took our meals at the old established lodging-house kept by Madame Hombert, who speaks a little English; she is a respectable woman, and her charges are moderate, which is far from being the case at the house of Madame Niellson, who formerly kept the Hotel du Nord. The neighbourhood of this town is studded with numerous villas, beautifully situated on the shore of the bay, as well as on the sides of the mountains.

On the 7th of September at a very early hour we left Tronjeim for Christiansand in the fine Norwegian steamer "The Christiania"; the weather was delightful, and as the sun rose the view of the fiord, encompassed by ridges of bold rocks, was truly magnificent. The voyage is generally performed in nine days, including the two during which you remain stationary at Bergen; you keep near the coast the whole way, and anchor in some harbour every evening.

We passed about mid-day the island of Heteren, the chief part of which is a barren rock, but it has some few wooded vallies. In this island are numerous wild deer, which our countrymen sometimes come to shoot, but there is some difficulty in obtaining permission to enjoy this sport. A boat put off with an ample supply of venison, which we had for dinner, and found it excellent. At six P.M. we anchored for the night in the harbour of the little town of Christiansand. On the surrounding heights were groups of peasants to witness the entrance of the steamer through the narrow channel; their appearance had a very picturesque effect. We slept on board, the accommodation and viands being unusually good, and on September 8th, at six A.M., we again got under weigh. The morning was rainy, and as we kept rather farther off the coast there was more sea, and consequently more motion in the vessel than was quite agreeable, but the water soon became calm, and all symptoms of landsmen's miseries vanished. At mid-day the steamer anchored

for an hour close to the town of Molde, and we went on shore. Its situation is lovely, and on both sides of the fiord, through which our course lay, the noble mountains lift their heads into the clouds; many of their summits are broken into most fantastic shapes, and here and there are clothed with wood, but the country in general was much more barren than any which we had previously seen. We anchored for the night in the harbour of Aalesund; its village, surrounded by the wildest rocks, was still more beautifully situated than Christiansund, which we had left in the morning. We landed, and scrambling up the side of a high mountain, enjoyed a magnificent view of the setting sun. Aalesund is a retired little hamlet, with no church within two miles of it, and till last year its inhabitants had never seen a steamer, so that the wonderment had scarcely yet subsided.

On the 9th, at six o'clock A.M., we again sailed. The weather was most favourable,

and the sea so calm that we greatly enjoyed our day's cruize, although we steered farther from the land than we had previously done. The scenery on the western coast of Norway (one of the most mountainous countries in Europe) became bolder as we advanced. This rugged coast has been most appropriately said to be iron-bound; one range of mountains was piled up behind another, and the day being clear the summits of some of the most distant were distinctly seen mantled with snow.

A new importation of passengers was taken on board at Aalesund, and amongst them four priests and two physicians. I had some conversation with one of the former, who spoke French a little. His large pipe was hanging from his coat pocket, and he wore an old and ill-shapen white hat. I was amused at his asking me whether I was not of the same cloth as himself, I having on at the time a light coloured velvet shooting jacket. In the course of the morning I saw these six

members of the learned professions drinking porter, and heard them singing most jovially, but whether psalms or not I did not attempt to ascertain.

We anchored at Maloen in the middle of the day, and in the evening, the weather continuing delightful, we took a boat and rowed about the fiord in pursuit of the numerous tribes of wild fowl with which it was covered. We killed some of the large species of gull, an eider duck*, and a small variety of sea bird, which was new to me, and somewhat resembled a grebe.

On the 10th September we had an unpleasant voyage to Bergen, which we did not reach till eleven at night, there having been a strong wind from the land, which,

* Edderduck (Edderfugl). This bird, of which the north sea is generally considered to be the *habitat*, is in shape and size between the goose and duck; the cock is of a black and green colour, the hen brown and grey mixed. The edderdown quilt is a covering like a feather bed, and is commonly used in this country instead of counterpanes and blankets.

however, did not produce much swell at sea, and it rained without intermission. We coasted it the whole of the voyage, one fiord succeeding another, bounded on each side by barren rocks and islands. Many of the black mountains rose abruptly from the sea, and some were perpendicular to an amazing height; the character of the scenery was both wild and grand in the extreme. The navigation being very intricate, and the night extremely dark, I was glad when we reached the harbour of Bergen. Every precaution had, however, been taken to secure our safety; the captain and the two experienced Swedish pilots were stationed on the platform between the paddle-boxes, the mate and another sailor stood at the helm, and one man was constantly in the shrouds on the look out.

CHAPTER XI.

Superstitions of the Norwegian fishermen. — Bishop Pontoppidan. — His credulity. — His account of the 'sea monsters.' — The merman, his wife and family. — The kraken. — The sea serpent. — Its mode of attacking boats. — Means of eluding its pursuit. — Dimensions of the kraken. — A Norwegian priest. — His duties and emoluments. — National airs. — Chorus. — Delay in steam-boats. — Bergen. — Its situation. — Trade in cod fish. — Its houses. — Shops. — An ancient 'Charley.' — Marquis of Waterford. — Cod fishery. — Herrings. — Governors of Bergen. — Their salaries. — Constitution of Norway. — The storthing or national assembly. — Its democratic tendency. — Its defective machinery. — The royal prerogative. — The system of representation ill devised. — Its probable failure in times of difficulty.

The Norwegian fishermen, like most other seafaring men, are very superstitious, and even the worthy bishop of Bergen (Pontoppi-

dan), although in other respects the highest authority on the natural history of his country, gives, in his work on Norway, many amusing instances of his credulity.

Although at the risk of repetition to those who are already familiar with the bishop's amusing pages, I will extract, for the benefit of my readers, his description of some of "the sea monsters," as he calls them; and it is to be borne in mind that the good bishop has previously stated in his preface, "that the reader will meet with many strange, singular, and unexpected things, *but all strictly true.*"

"Amongst the many sea monsters which are in the North Sea, and *are often seen*, I shall give the first place to the *merman*, whose mate is called mermaid. Of the merman's offspring some are as big as a child of three years old. Of this last size there was one lately taken in Selloe-Sogn; the upper part was like a child, but the rest like a fish."

" Here a fisherman told me he had seen a much more surprising monster close to his boat; the body was as broad and big as a vessel of fifty lasts burden, and the tail, which seemed to be about six fathoms long, was quite small and pointed at the end."

" The sea snake, or serpent of the ocean, is a wonderful and terrible sea monster; the *kraken* is considered as the most extraordinary in length. *Hundreds of fishermen and sailors have annually seen them.*"

" Two seafaring men deposed upon oath at the Bergen sessions before a magistrate, to the effect that about six miles from the Molde they saw a sea snake before them. The head, which it held more than two feet above the surface of the water, resembled that of a horse; it was of a greyish colour, and the mouth was quite black, and very large; it had black eyes, and a long white mane, that hung down from the neck to the surface of the water.

Besides the head and neck they saw seven or eight folds or coils of this snake, which were very thick, and as far as they could guess there was about a fathom distance between each fold. All that have seen this creature are unanimous in affirming, *as far as they can judge at a distance*, that it is of the length of a cable" (i. e. 100 fathoms, or 600 English feet!)

" The north traders inform me of what has frequently happened to them, namely, that the sea snake has raised itself up and thrown itself across a boat, and sometimes even across a vessel of some hundred tons burden, and by its weight has *sunk it down to the bottom.* These creatures shoot through the water like an arrow out of a bow. The fishermen usually tack about, so that if the snake will pursue them, it must *look against the sun*, which its eyes will not bear; the sailors provide themselves also with assafœtida and castor, by way of defence against these hurtful sea monsters. *People have been poisoned with*

the excrements of the sea-serpent, which are found floating on the water."

" Another man saw a snake at a distance, which appeared to be as thick as a pipe of wine, and had twenty-five folds."

" In those seas (about Bergen) there is a snake 200 feet long, and 20 feet round, which lives in the hollows of the rocks, and *goes out in moonlight nights to devour calves, sheep, and swine.* It has a mane two feet long ; it is covered with scales, and has fiery eyes ; it disturbs ships, and raises itself up like a mast, *and sometimes snaps some of the men from the deck.*"

" The kraken is the largest creature in the world; its back, or upper part, which *seems to be in appearance about an English mile and a half in circumference,* (*some say more, but I choose the least for the greater certainty,*) looks at first like a number of small islands, surrounded with something that floats and fluctuates like seaweeds.

It is said that if the creature's arms (*tentacula*) *were to lay hold of the largest man-of-war, they would pull it down to the bottom.* If the axiom be true, that greatness or littleness makes no change in the species, then this kraken must be of the polypus kind, notwithstanding its enormous size."

The *cautious* bishop thus concludes: " If I was an admirer of *uncertain reports* and *fabulous stories*, I might add much more concerning this and other Norwegian sea monsters, whose existence I will not take upon me to deny; but I *do not choose, by a mixture of uncertain relations, to make such accounts appear doubtful as I myself believe to be true and well attested.*" Pontoppidan, Natural History of Norway, 1751.

I will only add, by way of relieving the alarm of those of my countrymen who may chance in future to sail in these seas, that I searched in vain for the *kraken*, both on the coast and in the fish-market at Bergen. Having quoted the above high ecclesiastical

authority, I will not fatigue my readers by repeating the more recent accounts which have been given in the American newspapers, nor by entering into a long argument as to the probability that these marine monsters could exist without their being met with by any of our own numerous ships, navigating, as they constantly do, every sea in the known world.

Let each person exercise his own judgment on this knotty point; notwithstanding all that has been advanced by former travellers, I say,

"Credat Judæus Apella,
"Non ego." *

* I have lately received the following letter from an intelligent friend at Bergen, and although the information it conveys is somewhat at variance with what I have stated, it is interesting, as giving the opinions entertained, up to the present time, by the well-educated and best informed persons in Norway respecting these marine monsters. My own sentiments on the subject, however, remain unaltered.

"I have consulted" (says my correspondent) "a gentleman of much learning, and intimate knowledge of every thing belonging to Norway, Stiftamtmund Christie, whose name is so much connected with the political

It being a rainy day we were confined to the cabin, and had an opportunity of form-

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institutions of Norway from the year 1814. I especially asked his opinion about the sea serpent, and he assured me, that not only do the peasants feel convinced of its existence, but that he himself believes that it exists; that the bishop of Bergen, a few years ago, published an article in an antiquarian paper, which comes out occasionally, by the directors of the Bergen Museum, containing information in corroboration of this belief; that the inhabitants of the island Herroe at Sondmör see the serpent every year for a couple of months, in summer, whenever the weather is fine and the sea calm; and that a very trustworthy man, in whom Stiftamtmund Christie places confidence, has assured him of having been pursued or hunted, while in a boat with a couple of men, by a sea serpent; and, after having run the boat ashore, they saw the monster winding round several islands, and then disappear. With regard to the sea serpent, I must still add, that in spite of what I have said before, its existence is doubted by many. What most supports the doubt of its existence is, that this still continues to be doubtful, although the attention has been directed towards it for centuries. Certain it is that the sea serpent now-a-days is not common. Formerly it was to be found in almost all lakes; now it is only talked of on the coast, and even there not by every body, but only by the oldest, as a phenomenon of their youth. It is not long ago since the sea serpent had a rival in another monster, the kraken; but this must have been

ing some estimate of the character of our numerous passengers. With one of them

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of a more irritable disposition, having turned its back to our pigmy world, and gone down to that abyss from whence he will never return. And the sea serpent will probably have the same fate, when thought, which has already unveiled and extinguished so many phantoms, attains general and acknowledged power. One might entertain a doubt about the existence of the sea serpent, if the testimony could be published of only one trustworthy man in favour of it; but no, the belief rests only on tales from ignorant superstitious fishermen.

" On the island Sartor, on the coast west from Bergen, there is a lake, in which the peasants firmly believe a monster to exist, though they have no idea as to its shape or qualities. There is no end to the superstitions of the peasants in this part of Norway, and in this respect they remain in statu quo as they were centuries ago. They are quite different from the peasants on the other side of the Filefield, and farther east in Norway, where the costumes have not been retained as they are here. These vary in almost every parish, and by the dress it can always be known from what part of the Bergen Steft the peasants come. The use of corn brandy is not carried to that extent here as it is in other parts of Norway. The purity of the manners increases with the distance from the towns; and in some parishes this purity is still so strictly preserved, that even the custom of females, who have had children without being married, wearing a peculiar head dress, has not been done away with. The clergy

I had a long conversation in Spanish, a language with which he was perfectly familiar,

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have, of course, a great influence upon the peasants; and a conscientious fulfilment of the duties incumbent upon them, in a legal as well as in a moral sense, is on that account of more than momentary benefit."

It appears that the belief in the existence of these sea monsters is not confined to Norwegians, for the Rev. Donald Maclean, of Small Isles, in a letter addressed to the Wernerian Natural History Society of Edinburgh, states, "According to the best of my recollection, I saw it (the monster) in June 1808, not on the coast of Egg, but on that of Coll. Rowing along that coast, I observed, at the distance of about half a mile, an object to windward, which gradually created astonishment. At first view it appeared like a small rock. Knowing there was no rock in that situation, I fixed my eyes on it close. Then I saw it elevated considerably above the level of the sea, and, after a slow movement, distinctly perceived one of its eyes. Alarmed at the unusual appearance and magnitude of the animal, I steered so as to be at no great distance from the shore. When nearly in a line betwixt it and the shore, the monster, directing its head, which still continued above the water, towards us, plunged violently under water. Certain that he was in chase of us, we plied hard to get ashore. Just as we leaped out on a rock, taking a station as high as we conveniently could, we saw it coming rapidly under water towards the stern of our boat. When within a few yards of the boat, finding the water shallow, it

having recently returned from Bilboa, where he had resided for some time as a mer-

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raised its monster head above water, and by a winding course got, with apparent difficulty, clear of the creek where our boat lay, and where the monster seemed in danger of being imbayed. It continued to move off with its head above water, and with the wind, for about half a mile, before we lost sight of it. Its head was rather broad, and of a form somewhat oval; its neck somewhat smaller; its shoulders, if I can so term them, considerably broader, and thence it tapered towards the tail, which last it kept pretty low in the water, so that a view of it could not be taken so distinctly as I wished. It had no fin that I could perceive, and seemed to me to move progressively by undulations up and down. Its length I believed to be from 70 to 80 feet. When nearest to me it did not raise its head wholly above water, so that the neck being under water I could perceive no shining filaments thereon, if it had any. Its progressive motion under water I took to be rapid, from the shortness of time it took to come up to the boat. When the head was above water, its motion was not near so quick; and when the head was most elevated, it appeared evidently to take a view of distant objects. About the time I saw it, it was seen about the island of Canna. The crews of thirteen fishing-boats, I am told, were so much terrified at its appearance, that, in a body, they fled from it to the nearest creek for safety. On the passage from Rum to Canna, the crew of one boat saw it coming towards them with the wind, and its head above water. One

chant; but the person who interested me the most was a priest, a man of considerable acquirements and much local information. He spoke French, and had a familiar knowledge both of Latin and Greek, which languages, he informed me, all Norwegian students who are intended for the ministry are required to speak, as well as read, before they leave the University of Christiania. Upon inquiring into his history we found he had originally performed service in the little church on the borders of the Limingen Lake, near the Lapp country which we had recently visited, and had instructed the people who lived around it. He had a wife and nine children, one of whom, a very interesting young woman, was with him. Although his public duties were onerous in the extreme, he expressed him-

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of the crew pronounced its head as large as a little boat, and each of its eyes as large as a plate. The men were much terrified, but the monster offered them no molestation. From those who saw it, I could get no interesting particulars additional to those above mentioned."

self as quite satisfied with his lot. He had three churches to serve; one, four Norse miles distant from his residence, to which he was always obliged to go on horseback, it being high up in the mountains; to another, which was somewhat nearer, he could drive in his carriole. His stipend is about £120 sterling per annum, upon which he managed to bring up his large family respectably and well, and to send to the university his eldest son, who is intended for the ministry. This kind-hearted and agreeable man, whose name is Kragh, showed great hospitality to Mr. Belton, which he gratefully acknowledges in his recent work on Norway. Amongst my new friend's other acquirements he had a knowledge of music, and sang a good song, of which we had an opportunity of judging on the night of our arrival off Bergen; he gave us several beautiful national airs in good style, the music of which I should have been glad to have obtained; a large party joined him in the chorus, and the mirth was kept up till past midnight.

I listened to it from my berth, to which I had retired at an earlier hour. One of the Englishmen present was called upon to sing "God save the Queen," and after this, and each of the other songs, the whole party stood up, and brought their wine glasses into contact, as was formerly not unusual in our own country. I parted with regret from Mr. Kragh, who left us at Bergen. On taking his leave, after respectfully bowing to an English widow on board, whose husband had unfortunately been drowned by the upsetting of a boat near Hammerfest, he feelingly and in the most delicate manner expressed his regret for the late loss she had met with in his country, and prayed that she might find future happiness in her own.

We were constrained to remain at Bergen during the 11th and 12th of September, the present arrangement respecting the progress of the steamers being very defective, as far as expedition is concerned. Our friend and fellow passenger, Mr. Knudt-

zon, kindly acted as our cicerone, and from his society, not only at Bergen, but during the voyage, we derived much pleasure and information.

This city, beautifully situated at the bottom of a long bay, enclosed on all sides by rugged and barren rocks, forming nearly an amphitheatre round the harbour, ranks with Christiania, Tronjeim, and Christiansand among the capitals of Norway. Its population is 22,000 souls; and its trade, far more considerable than that of any other place in this country, is principally confined to cod fish, which is sent to Spain and Portugal, and all parts of the Mediterranean. Herrings are also caught here in great abundance. The houses at Bergen, which are remarkably neat and nicely painted, extend round the extremity of its fiord, in the shape of a horse-shoe. Most of them are built of wood, but some are of brick, and nearly all are covered with red tiles. Many of the buildings are of considerable size, particularly the bishop's school, and the seamen's

hospital, as well as the residences of the Austrian and Spanish consuls. The whole town wears the aspect of opulence, and offers a great contrast in this respect to Christiania and Tronjeim. It is bustling and full of activity; you encounter both the sight and the smell of dried fish at every turn; the warehouses were full of the same commodity, and numerous vessels in the harbour were being laden with it. The streets are much narrower than those of Christiania, but equally clean, and many of them, being on a declivity, are well washed by the frequent rains which fall here. The shops are tolerably good, and over most of them are signs, by which are indicated the articles sold within. We passed a watch-box, on which was a venerable representation of the genus watchman, armed with his "morning star," a formidable weapon of wood headed with brass, and loaded with iron, which a few years since was so vigorously applied to the pericranium of the Marquis of Waterford, and from the notice which was taken of that event in the

public papers, has since obtained an European celebrity.

Cod are taken along the whole of the north coast; when dried, a great quantity is sent, under the name of baccalão, to various catholic countries. As soon as the fish are caught, the livers are collected, and put into barrels, and an oil, superior to the whale oil, is extracted from them; the best quality is used for table lamps. Herrings are taken within two Norse miles of Bergen, and a small species of whale frequently enters the fiord in pursuit of them. This herring fishery commences in the month of February, and continues during the winter.

There are three governors in the city; an ecclesiastical one, namely, the bishop, whose income, as head of the church, is about £1,000 sterling per annum; a civil, and a military one. The stipends of the two latter are £600 a year each. Bergen returns four members to the storthing.

Their election would take place in about a fortnight's time, and I was informed that the candidates likely to be successful were two judges, a merchant, and the gentleman who is at the head of the principal scholastic establishment here.

"The government of Norway is a limited monarchy, hereditary in the male line of the royal family of Sweden. The king is irresponsible, and his person inviolate; he must conform to the Lutheran religion, which is that established by law. In the absence of the king the government is administered by a viceroy, residing at Christiania. The executive power belongs exclusively to the king; the legislative is shared by the storthing, or national assembly, which meets at Christiania in the beginning of February of every third year. Its members are chosen by electors nominated by the burghers and landholders, and their number may not exceed one hundred, nor fall short of seventy-five."* "In

* Encyclopædia Metropolitana.

this house," says Laing, "the lagthing, or division, is elected by the storthing, which is equivalent to a house of peers, in which the deliberative functions of the legislative body are invested. This consists of one fourth of the members of the storthing, voted for by the whole body, and forming a separate house. The storthing in fact consists of three houses: the lagthing, of twenty-four members; the odelsthing, of seventy-two; and the entire storthing, consisting of the whole ninety-six united in one house."

Many of the most judicious of the Norwegians are convinced that this storthing is too democratic in its construction, and that the machine, however well it may work in quiet times, will prove insufficient in the hour of need. The session of the storthing does not exceed three months, and as it takes place only once in every three years, very injurious delays frequently occur, in enactments ultimately connected with the public good. The legislature has

jealously excluded all the best and most intelligent persons from its halls, by disqualifying every one who is connected with the court or the government, or who is in the receipt of any income derived from the national purse, whether in the shape of salary or pension, and thus those individuals who from their position must naturally be the most conversant with public affairs are interdicted from all legislative power. Although some individuals connected with the church and the law are elected, the deputies principally consist of yeomen, whose views, as is common with tillers of the soil, are somewhat too practical,—somewhat too economical; their niggardly votes of supplies hamper all local and general improvements; and they have carried measures, such as the abolition of hereditary distinctions, the equal division of property among children, &c., which, according to our notions, must sap the very foundations of a limited monarchy. Of this the Norwegians themselves are perfectly aware; but they contend that the government of Norway is

a pure democracy, and that as their country has been appended to Sweden, without their consent having been sought or obtained, the present system of legislature is the only one which gives them any chance of maintaining their national independence. As there is no intermediate house between themselves and the crown, and as a bill which has passed a third storthing becomes a law, without the king's signature, the crown only possesses a veto which when twice exercised ceases; and there is in fact no barrier whatever, no protection for the upper classes, or for the supreme chief. Hitherto, as they have had peace at home, and no foreign war, things have gone on smoothly, and the ill-constructed machine has kept together; but should invasion, rebellion, or any powerfully disturbing element arise, to shake the fabric of society, their system of representation would be exposed to a trial which it is little fitted to sustain; in short, the duration of this ill-devised government seems very problematical.

CHAPTER XII.

A country house. — Mr. Carl Konows. — Trade. — Taxes. — Cathedral. — Sunday. — Negligence in the observance of the day. — The castle. — A balloon. — Theatres of the town of Bergen. — Costumes. — Quit Bergen. — Scenery. — Stavanger. — Cathedral. — The southern extremity of Norway. — Gammel Norge. — The west coast of Norway. — Fellow passengers. — Character of the country. — Revenue. — Poor quality of the soil. — Forests. — Jealousy between Sweden and Norway. — Revenue of Norway. — Its poverty. — Vast property of the king. — Vicissitudes of his life. — The crown prince. — Scenery of Norway. — Manners of its inhabitants. — Christiansand. — The bishop. — Incomes of the clergy. — Their limited numbers, — and consequent onerous duties. — Jews. — Novel boat. — Cathedral at Christiansand. — Scotch fir. — Church-yard. — Temperance society. — Route to and from Norway. — Danger of the steamers. — Passports.

On Sunday the 12th September we breakfasted with Mr. Carl Konow, one of the principal Bergen merchants, at his country

house, which is beautifully situated on the borders of the fiord, and close to the water's edge. We also passed the evening with him, and he gave me much local information. He was educated in England, and is a very sensible man; he is well acquainted with the Duke of Rutland, who, about six years since, came to Bergen in his yacht.

Considerable fortunes were formerly made in this town by the fish trade, which, however, is now more equally divided between it and other towns on the coast. The only taxes which fall upon the inhabitants for the support of the city are a house and an income tax; the latter impost, I was informed, is as unpopular here as it is in all other countries. The income arising from the export duties goes entirely to the crown.

We went to the cathedral, but found it closed; and it is not, I think, creditable to the bishop that service should be only performed there once on Sundays. In the

edifice itself there is nothing worthy of remark. We attended service at one of the parochial churches; the congregation did not exceed fifty persons. There is also a German church here; but after the morning service the observance of the sabbath appeared to be at an end. In the evening all the lower classes of the inhabitants repaired to the castle, where there was an exhibition of dancing on the tight-rope, with a band of music; but the principal amusement was the ascent of a wretched balloon, which just crossed the water and descended on the other side, amid the shouts of the people. There is a pretty walk on the hill, above the ramparts; it is tastefully planted with trees, which must afford a delightful shade during the heat of summer.

Altogether I was pleased with Bergen during the two days we spent there; it is a clean and thriving town, and its excellent harbour was filled with vessels. The streets are much better paved than at Tronjeim,

and are lighted by large lamps, hung across them, as at Paris.

We were much amused in noticing the costumes of the peasantry, which are almost as picturesque as those in Switzerland; they have been kept up in this part of Norway, but entirely abandoned both at Christiania and Tronjeim, which is much to be regretted. The countrywomen confine their hair by a narrow scarlet band across the forehead, and their cloth petticoats have a border of the same gay colour; their figures are somewhat out of the line of beauty, as they wear no stays, but the light curly hair of the little girls, plaited, and hanging down their backs, was very ornamental. The dress of the fishermen is also remarkable; they wear leathern coats, high sugar-loaf hats, and immense boots, and their long hair reaches over their shoulders.

We left Bergen on the 13th of September, and performed our voyage of one hundred

miles in about twelve hours, the usual time allowed for steamers. The weather was remarkably fine; but although we saw several glaciers on the mountains to our left, the scenery in general was not so bold as that which we had lately quitted. It consisted of barren islands, and rocks running along the coast, where the birch, the only tree, appeared struggling for life. During the day we stopped to take in passengers at two small fishing villages, and in the evening anchored in the port of Stavanger, where we landed, and enjoyed a long walk. This town, for its size, has also a considerable trade in fish; and the catch of herrings last season was beyond the usual average. The only object worthy of record at Stavanger is the cathedral, which is said to be of an earlier date than that of Tronjeim, and indeed the oldest in Norway. It is well preserved, and some parts of it, particularly the Gothic arches, and the ceiling at the east end, are in good taste. The interior is dark and gloomy; the pulpit and pews are all elaborately

carved in wood; there are some fine monuments, and the whole edifice, both externally and internally, is interesting from its antiquity. The architecture is a mixture of Gothic and Saxon, the arched doorways being of the latter order. We examined the sacristy and the private chapels used in popish times. The tower has been partially whitewashed, and some modern windows have been barbarously added to the aisle, which detract sadly from the general effect.

We this day reached the southern extremity of Norway, and some students on board, who were going to the university at Christiania, drank the health of Gammel Norge (old Norway), and sung the national anthem, a general practice on passing this spot.

On the evening of the 14th September we arrived at Flekkefiord, a very small town, and on the 15th at Christiansand, the point from whence we had commenced our rambles.

We had now completed our voyage along the west coast of Norway, and had seen to great advantage the magnificent views with which it abounds, the weather having in general been very favourable to us. The steamer was crowded with passengers, every berth occupied, and some hammocks swung in the cabin at night; there was, however, no confusion, the arrangement throughout the vessel having been excellent; and I found the society of the persons with whom I conversed very agreeable and lively. There were several elegant Norwegian ladies on board, but with them, unfortunately, we could scarcely exchange a word. I never remember seven days on board ship passing so rapidly as these; and with Shakspeare and Cowper as my companions, in addition to the society I have already mentioned, I did not find a moment hang heavily on my hands, for the beauty of this rocky scenery never flags, and even its barrenness was interesting, as contrasted so strongly with the woody region which we had so lately quitted beyond Tronjeim.

The fir tree has been quaintly, but truly, said "to grow as naturally in Norway as hairs on a man's head*;" but the great characteristics of this country are rivers, rocks, fiords, fosses (waterfalls), and mountains, and such being the case, it naturally follows that it must be a very poor country. Indeed its whole revenue does not exceed that of one or two of our most opulent English noblemen, namely, about £350,000 sterling per annum. The bold and rocky part of Norway is intersected by deep fiords, which extend from fifty to eighty miles inland, and abound in fish, which is the chief food of the inhabitants, who are a hardy race of people, and excellent seamen. More than three fourths of Norway are unfit for cultivation, except in a few sheltered places in the narrow vallies between the masses of rock. The forests are inexhaustible, and constitute the chief

* There are two species, the Scotch fir (pinus sylvestris) and the spruce (pinus abies), but the latter is by far the most common, and may be called the weed of the country. We saw very few larch (larix Europœa).

wealth of the country. Its exported timber goes principally to Great Britain.

We were now about to touch upon Sweden, at Gottenburgh, and, in illustration of the great jealousy which always exists between nations immediately bordering on each other, an intelligent friend mentioned the following singular fact. Up to the year 1814, the period at which the federal union was established between the two countries, there was not a single instance of a Norwegian woman having married a Swede, but since that time several Swedes have been united to Norse females.

The revenue of Norway is larger than its expenditure; not so that of Sweden, whose exchequer has more than once been in a state of bankruptcy, notwithstanding its receipts are much greater in amount than those of Norway. The king's private income is said to be immense; and I was informed, upon good authority, that at the

time of the marriage of his eldest son, Oscar, it was ascertained to amount to a million sterling; *how* he came possessed of it is another affair. Carl Johan is now in his seventy-sixth year, but does not appear disposed to abdicate in favour of the crown prince. We are told that Stockholm is a dull court, and that the aged monarch remains in bed till four o'clock in the afternoon, and transacts most of his public business there. This extraordinary man must be considered as among the ablest of the kings of Europe, for, surely, when we reflect what he formerly was, a common soldier in the French army, and what he now is, a reigning monarch, with his dynasty to all appearance firmly established, we cannot but allow that he has evinced great tact and judgment, and forms a worthy colleague to his shrewd countryman, Louis Philippe. Oscar, the Crown Prince of Norway, is very popular; he has a large family, and is generally represented as being not only amiable, but also a man of considerable talent and

literary acquirement. He has recently published a work on prison discipline.

Norway has been accurately and forcibly described as a country which stands pre-eminent in attraction, by the combination of so many grand objects; large mountains, large rivers, large forests may all be found separately in other countries; here alone are they to be seen united, and in profusion. It is not one mountain, or one great cluster of lofty rocks, that we pass in the course of a day's journey; there are miles beyond miles of rock and mountain stretching away till fancy flags in attempting to follow them, —an entire kingdom of grandeurs! The forests are endless; not broken woods, but whole regions of pines, where you may travel for days, and still find nothing but wood, wood, wood. The very solitude is deeper, more impressive than that of any other country. How voiceless, how awful is the silence of these retreats! The listener is appalled when he rests for a moment in the midst of it.—The small cry

of the smallest bird would be a relief. "Those who go to see this country will never repent the time they spent in it.*

The account which Pennant also gives of this country is so graphic and true, that I am tempted to transcribe it. "Norway" (he says) "extends about 1,500 miles in length, and exhibits a most wonderful appearance of coast. Millions of islands, large and small, skerries or rocks, follow the greatest part of this wondrous coast. The islands are rude and mountainous. The sea near the islands is so deep and rocky that the Norwegian kings caused vast iron rings to be fastened with lead to the sides, to enable ships to moor in security, or to assist them in warping out. The mountains and islands break into very grotesque forms, and would furnish admirable subjects for the pencil. Not to mention the tops of many, broken into imaginary forms of towers, and Gothic

* Bremner's Excursions in Norway, &c.

edifices, forts and castles, with regular walls and bastions. It is the sea that yields them a harvest, and near to it stand all the capital towns. The herring, the cod, the ling, and the salmon are the maritime wealth of this country. The severity of the climate has not checked the growth or distorted the human form. Man here is tall, robust, of just symmetry in limbs. The male peasants of the mountains are active in body, clear and intelligent in their minds."

This interesting country I was now about to quit, after a tour, which, from its novelty and excitement, will ever leave a vivid and pleasurable impression on my mind. Much as I was delighted with its scenery, I was no less so with the free, open, and unsophisticated manners, the simple mindedness and honesty of its inhabitants.

Christiansand, where we were detained from the 16th to the 20th of September, waiting for the English steamer to convey

us to Gottenburgh, is a quiet and dull city, the seat of a bishop, and containing upwards of 5,000 inhabitants; but there is so little commercial activity or opulence here at the present time, that it is said not more than five families possess an income of as many hundred pounds sterling each. The bishop died recently, and the election of his successor took place only six weeks since. He is said to be well qualified for his office, is in the prime of life (about forty years of age), and has been more than once elected a member of the storthing. At this time he was absent from Christiansand, on a progress through his diocese, to inspect the schools, and perform his other public duties. There is a bishop in each of the four provinces of Norway, Tronjeim, Bergen, Aggerhuus (or Christiania), and Christiansand, and their incomes are from £800 to £1,000 sterling per annum each, whilst the stipend of the inferior clergy is from £150 to £250 sterling each. No other profession in this country is so well paid. I should say that one of the principal

defects of their church establishment is the small number of clergymen. Those whom we met complained to us of the onerous duties they had to fulfil, in consequence of the great distance between the different churches which they serve, and the long and fatiguing journies they had to make, across the mountains, in all seasons of the year, and in every kind of weather. The result (and it must be most detrimental to the progress of religion) is, that service is only performed occasionally; in some parishes about Ekker once a month, and in others which are more remote only twice a year.

Jews are not allowed to reside in any part of Norway; and I could not but feel that this want of religious toleration is not only illiberal, but totally inconsistent with that boasted liberty and independence in which the Norwegians consider themselves superior to all the rest of the world, but how often does practice belie the most specious theories!

We noticed here a novel substitute for a boat, in which many of the natives crossed the harbour. It consisted of two planks, about six feet long each, and fastened together by a plate of iron at each end, with a space of about eighteen inches between the planks. The adventurous individual who trusted himself to this fragile machine had to stand with one foot on each plank. Bending rather forward, he paddled along with a pole, at each end of which was a flat round piece of wood, and went at a good rate.

On Sunday I attended the morning service at the cathedral. There is the same want of energy and zeal here as at Bergen, service being only once performed on the Lord's day. The cathedral is plain and neat, without having any thing remarkable about it, either externally or internally. After the sermon, many children of both sexes were confirmed by the provst, or rural dean, who first made an extempore address to them of an hour's length, and

then questioned them separately. I sat in one of the pews, forming a kind of gallery, which, from its unsightly shape, entirely destroys, in this as it does in most other churches in Norway, all architectural effect and beauty. The watchmen, as they are here called, but whom we should term beadles, as well as the soldiers, remain during the service with their caps on. In the churchyard is a Scotch fir of great antiquity, which escaped the ravages of the fire which consumed the church itself two centuries ago. This tree, accompanied by the lion of Norway, is represented in the brass vane which surmounts the tower, and also is the stamp used on all public documents. Many of the graves around the church are prettily adorned with periwinkle, which entirely covers the green sward. One tomb in particular was ornamented with various flowers, which were quite fresh, and had evidently been strewed over it that morning; no doubt a tribute of affection from the relatives or friends of the deceased. Not a weed was to be seen; and two dwarf ash

trees were so trained as to shade the whole. The sabbath is very little more observed here than in Roman catholic countries. In the morning we saw two officers going out shooting; and in the evening a sailor, to whom we wished to speak, was at a public dance, and at last came to us quite intoxicated. Drunkenness, as I have before remarked, is the prevailing vice of Norway; but I was glad to hear there are at present no less than 700 members belonging to the "Temperance Society," which was established in this town a few years since.

I have already stated that we embarked for Norway from Hull, and landed at Christiansand, and this is certainly the easiest and best way; but as the steamers are of small size, the traffic between the two countries not being considerable, and are also somewhat aged, I should advise the tourist to return to England, as we did, viâ Hamburg, by which means he will not only see the fine Danish capital, but also be

conveyed to his native shores by some one of the best boats in Europe. There is always a certain swell on the turbulent North Sea (or German Ocean), and as the period of the equinox approaches, the steamers which ply between Norway and Hull are little suited to withstand the gales which they have to encounter. Whilst I was at Christiansand one of these vessels had a very bad passage, and was detained there to repair the injuries her machinery had sustained; and our friends, who returned a fortnight later than we did, had to contend against a storm during the whole of their four days passage; some of the cabins on deck were washed overboard, a paddle-box was stove in, and one of the sailors was much injured.

Notwithstanding what other travellers have stated respecting the annoyance arising from the regulations regarding passports in this country, I think it right to say that we did not bring any from Eng-

land, nor did we procure them in Norway till we were about to leave Tronjeim on our way home. On no occasion were they inquired for. It was my intention to have extended my tour to the glaciers and through the central parts of Norway; but circumstances which I could not control prevented my so doing. The kindness of the Honourable Francis Scott has enabled me to supply this deficiency; he has favoured me with a perusal of the lively and most graphic journal which he kept during his excursions in those rarely-visited districts, a privilege which it is to be hoped he will some day permit the public to enjoy.

CHAPTER XIII.

Route to Bergen. — Picturesque and rocky scenery. — Vivid colouring of the Norway landscapes. — Burning forest. — Brooten. — Norwegian horses. — Difficulties of the route. — Glacier. — Perilous ascent. — Magnificent view. — Comfortable quarters. — Bearskin. — Mr. Leigh. — The Sogne Fiord. — Falls. — Beautiful scene. — Costumes. — Inn. — Attacked by banditti. — Bergen. — Luther and John Huss. — Museum — Old picture. — Start for the Hardanger. — Forests. — Hurricanes. — Various modes of travelling. — Practise as a doctor. — Good intentions. — Glacier of the Folgefonde. — Ascent of the height of Hardanger. — Provost Hertzberg. — Singular effects of a tempest. — The Voringfoss or waterfall. — Course of the river. — Frail bridge. — Phosphoric appearance of the sea. — Comic tragedy. A wandering whale. — Whales no longer considered safe anchorage.

September 22d.—Leaving the Christiania road at Laurgaard I travelled westward to Bergen. The route led through the wildest part of Norway, and a great portion of it was impassable for carriages. My course

was up a narrow valley, the mountainous and rocky sides of which were clad with pine trees, which grew where one would have thought that no tree could have inserted a root or fibre, many of them throwing their branches over a small lake. I shall not easily forget the beauty of this secluded valley. I have often observed in the most mountainous parts of Norway the extreme depth of the shadows which are cast by the dark rocks and steep acclivities, contrasting strongly with the bright gleams of sunshine partially thrown athwart the sides of the hills. The vivid effect of colouring which results from this exceeded any thing I had ever before seen in nature, and proved the truth of Robson's colouring, which I had always before considered to be extravagant. Here a rapid stream, issuing from a lake overhung by rocky hills, and winding amid numerous green islands clothed with alders, and bordered by heights studded with fine birch and other forest trees, a hamlet and church, half seen amidst the trees, with lofty hills and moun-

tains rising in the distance, formed a varied and picturesque landscape of singular beauty. Having parted with my carriage, which could be no longer useful, I proceeded on by the lake of Vaage to Skiager, and not by the light of the moon only, for the forest on my right had taken fire two or three days before, through the carelessness of a person who had burnt some moss. The flames were spreading far and wide, and blazed in a terrific manner. It was a splendid sight; and if the wind had continued it was evident that no human power could have arrested its progress. By its light I went to bed, if the berth which I occupied in a hut could be called a bed, and I arose before day-break. The flames were still raging and the timber crackling at a little distance, whilst a dense volume of smoke rolled along the hill and enveloped the whole forest. Leaving the poor peasants, who were in a state of no small dismay, I proceeded through the wood, with a devouring fire burning behind

me, and the dreadful evidence of a former one in front of my path. The forest track was strewed with the decaying trunks of huge trees, partially destroyed by fire some years since, which lay scattered beneath the growth of a younger forest, while here and there a blackened trunk stood, a melancholy and sickly evidence of the ravages which had destroyed its contemporaries.

Beyond this scene of conflagration was the village of Brooten, where I got fresh horses and a guide, and continued my route along the same valley to the Lia Lake, where the scenery became still wilder and more grand, the rocks more rugged, the snow-capp'd mountains higher and nearer to me, the vegetation more scanty, and the path among the rocks and through the woods more difficult and laborious. I again passed the night in a hut, and the next morning at day-break continued my journey in spite of the rain and mist, the horses, which, by the bye, are the cleverest and most docile little

creatures imaginable*, scrambling through the tangled wood, and over the fallen trees which lay around, and over much rocky and boggy ground, to the head of the Lia Lake, where the waters are gathered together from the snowy mountains before they take a southerly course to the Miosen

* I cannot forbear adding my testimony in favour of these useful and active animals. It is quite astonishing at how rapid a rate these pretty little cream-coloured ponies scamper over the steepest and roughest roads, and trot down the most precipitous descents with perfect ease and confidence; the tightening of the rein producing no other effect than to make them go the faster. They scarcely ever make a false step, and throughout all our journey I only saw one knee which was marked. They are the most docile and tractable animals in the world, and attend to their owner's voice far more than to the reins or whip in the hands of the traveller, who, according to the custom of the country, drives himself, and the owners of the horses, who are exceedingly attached to them, either accompany them or send a lad to bring them home again; and almost the only time that I saw a Norwegian peasant really out of temper, was when he fancied his horse had been ill used. I regret to say that the conduct of some English travellers has rather injured our character for humanity in the estimation of the primitive Norwegian horse-dealers.

Soe and the Christiania Fiord. It is almost impossible to give an idea of the difficulty which I experienced in surmounting the chain of mountains which divides the course of the rivers west and south. My guide had never before travelled this road with a horse, indeed he was totally unacquainted with the greater part of it, having only been once or twice on the hills in search of wild rein-deer, which are here very common. Our difficulties and dangers were also greatly increased by the rapid melting of the ice and snow; and when we had accomplished half our task the only practicable mode of proceeding appeared to be over the face of a steep glacier. My servant led his horse up, whilst I and the guide, slipping and scrambling at every step, attempted to follow; but my pony soon came down again, and falling against the animal which carried the luggage, upset him, and away rolled both the horses to the bottom, where they were stopped by a mass of rock, and had not the rein-deers horns, which were on the top of the luggage,

broken the fall, considerable injury, if not death, must have ensued; as it happened, however, they were only bruised and scratched. My servant, after he had reached to a considerable height, found he could advance no further, as the rifts in the rock and ice were impassable; the only thing therefore which he could do was to retrace his steps down the slippery descent. The horse, moreover, was so much frightened that for some time he could not move, but stood trembling; at length we turned him towards the hill of ice, down which he slid on his haunches at a tremendous pace, and much to my joy, reached the bottom in safety. After some time we discovered, not a path, but some openings through the rocks, by which it might be possible to climb the mountain; our horses fell sometimes, and at others either got their legs in a hole, or fixed them between the large stones; at length, however, we surmounted all these obstacles, and arrived at the summit. Never can I forget the view that then

burst upon us; I can only compare it to some of the wildest I have seen of Lapland or Siberia, but it was still wilder and more desolate than those. A precipitous rock, or rather an abrupt mountain side, sunk beneath me, and far below on my right was a wide sea-green lake, bordered by snowy ridges and peaks which overhung its waters; and a cluster of small specks in the distance, which my guide told me were a herd of rein-deer, added interest to the scene. In front rose the Ludalscope, the loftiest mountain of the range, to a height of many thousand feet, between which and the point where I stood was a ravine filled by a huge glacier, and on my left was the vale of *Justedal.* The stream which rushes through it issues by a cataract from the lake which is, I believe, called Stug Soe. My way was through this valley, and it was a sufficiently difficult one. Night was coming on apace when I reached the celebrated glacier of *Justedal Myelvar Bræe,* and as our horses were completely jaded, I fully expected that we

must have bivouacked for the night in the woods; which, after such a day's work, would have been any thing but agreeable. At length we determined that the guide and I should urge our tired ponies, whilst my servant proceeded on foot with all the speed he could along an intricate path which was hardly discernible in the twilight, in order to discover, if possible, some habitation in the valley. We followed by the side of the river, and for some time I thought we had lost all trace of him, and that we were benighted in earnest. However, after a while I heard him shouting to the full extent of his lungs; we answered him, and after a lengthened interchange of signals we at last rejoined him close to a peasant's hut which he had fallen in with, and to my infinite joy and relief I was soon seated before a blazing fire with a group of wild mountaineers standing around, and gazing at me with astonishment; here I dried my clothes, and after a good supper of boiled milk mixed with the rice I had brought with me, slept soundly on the

boards, with no other covering than a couple of skins.

At this cottage I purchased a bear's skin for eleven dollars; the animal to which it belonged had only been shot a few days before, close to the glacier by which I passed.

September 25th. My journey to-day was very short, only seven English miles, to the house of the priest of Justedal, M. Leigh, to whose lady I had brought a letter of introduction from a young Norwegian lieutenant who had accompanied me during a part of my journey. The worthy pastor pressed me to delay my departure until the morrow, the distance to the next posting station being 21 miles, the hour late, and the rain falling in torrents. I was not long in complying with his request, and had no reason to regret doing so, for I never slept under a more hospitable roof, or experienced greater attention and kindness. Our conversation was more edifying than

animated, as the whole of it was carried on in Latin, the only language common to both. On the following morning I was awoke by my host, who, as he entered my room smoking his pipe, uttered the following words, which carried me back at once to my school-boy days, '*Jam tempus est surgendi*, sexta advenit hora!' after a hearty breakfast, seasoned with much similar latinity, I continued my route, loaded with presents of cheese, &c. from the kind lady of the house.

Having reached the end of the valley of Justedal, I took boat at Marefiere, and proceeded along the Sogne Fiord to Leirdalsoren. The views during the passage are extremely fine, the hills on either side being abrupt and lofty. The next day I hired a boat with three men, and reached Gudvangsoren, a distance of twenty-eight English miles; from Gudvangsoren to Stalem my course lay up a ravine, through which ran a rapid and foaming river, the character of which continues unchanged till

it meets the sea; at length the glen ends abruptly, and the waters of two rivers fall over precipitous rocks, and join each other near their base. The names of these two cataracts are Stalem and Sibelem, and, though I have seen larger bodies of water, yet the wild scenery of the rocks, clothed with birch and pine, the high and naked mountains, of the boldest forms, and with their summits covered with snow, formed altogether a picture more sternly beautiful than any I had ever before beheld. The view up the glen embraces from the same spot these two magnificent waterfalls, which rush into the stream below with a thundering noise, and form a cloud of spray. The bridge where the streams meet, the road winding up the face of the rocky hill between them, and the cottages perched on a green space above, would form a beautiful subject for an artist. An old man, who was fishing in the stream below, had just caught a salmon of about three pounds, with no better tackle than a stick, string, hook, and worm, but he asked me a higher price for

it than I was disposed to give; I was afterwards sorry I had not purchased it, for food on the roads in Norway is not as plentiful as blackberries; however, I obtained a couple of cheeses and some butter at the next hamlet. I procured also, the costume of a peasant girl at Stalem; red is the general colour of the boddicé, which is trimmed with velvet or green cloth; tin ornaments are worn round the neck, and a knife sometimes in the girdle; the hair is braided with ribbon, and hangs in two long tails over the shoulders, whilst the head is covered with a starched linen cap, singularly shaped; a leather jacket very often completes the dress. The men wear their hair long, hanging over their shoulders from under a hat or a red cap; their waistcoats are, for the most part, red, trimmed with blue or green, the button holes being embroidered. You frequently see two or three bright colours bordered with another equally gay. Their coats and nether garments are of leather, and they wear large buckles in their shoes; but it is no easy task to

describe the costume of the peasantry, its varieties are endless, and there is nothing more striking than the strange assortment of dresses which are seen in a town on a market or fair day; this I remarked particularly at Lierdalsoren, through which I passed on the day of a great fair, which lasts a week, and to which the peasantry come from a distance of 100 English miles to buy cloth, dried fish, tobacco, &c., and also to drink brandy with astonishing perseverance. Some of the costumes reminded me of those in the Tyrol and in Russia, whilst others resembled the dress in which the English and French are represented in old pictures of the early part of the last century.

I walked from Stalem to Vinjie, along the edge of the Oopheim Vand, and from thence to Vossevangen. As I approached the Voss Lake the country became gradually less wild, the mountains less abrupt, and there was a greater appearance of cultivation and comfort. I had stopped at

Vossevangen because I had been informed it was the most comfortable inn on the road, but such it certainly did not prove, for I had not been two hours in bed before the insect garrison fairly dislodged me, and I was obliged to get up and dress, and retreat to the table, on which I dozed out the remainder of the night, wrapt up in my great coat.

30th September. I started early on a fine clear morning, such as frequently succeeds stormy weather when the sky has been cleared by a tempest. The grey mist was slowly rising from the lake, and rolling lazily up the mountain sides before the sun, and disclosing the surface of the water as pure as crystal, and undisturbed by a breath of wind; it reflected the sky and all the surrounding scenery as vividly as a mirror. The sloping sides of the hills which bounded the lake consisted of fields well cultivated, and of pasture lands stocked with cattle. The scenery recalled to my mind the picturesque beauties of

Coniston Water, and the lakes of the north of England. This beautiful road continued for about twelve or fourteen miles, skirting a succession of lakes or rivers, the waters widening or contracting according to the extent of the passage through the rocks. Partly by water and partly by land I proceeded to Bolstadoren, where I hired a boat and three men to row me along the fiord to Bergen, a distance of forty-two English miles. For the first twenty miles after leaving Bolstadoren the fiord is more like a succession of small lakes than an arm of the sea, and has all the characteristic features peculiar to Norway. It winds along between lofty and rocky hills, which meet the water at right angles, and raise their partially wooded sides and naked summits to a great height. As you proceed, these hills one after another close in the view; sometimes projecting as though no passage could be found between, and then widening and disclosing an extensive sheet of water, into which many white and foaming torrents fall precipitously down the mountain side,

each in a single column. The whole scene was one of wild and solitary grandeur. Nearer Bergen the fiord widens, the hills, though equally rocky, are less lofty, and receding from the shore leave space for a considerable quantity of pasture land around the town.

Bergen has some fine churches, of Gothic architecture; but the town has been so often injured by fire, that little ancient building, except the mere foundations, exists at present. The only one which is in any degree ornamented in the interior is the German church, a fine old building, with so many curious pictures, and so much carving and gilding, as to resemble a Roman catholic church. There is an old portrait of Martin Luther, in his doctor's robes, with a goose by his side, which alludes to John Huss, the great Bohemian reformer (his name signifying goose, in the language of that country), who exclaimed at his execution, "They are now going to broil a goose, but within one hundred years they

shall hear á swan sing who will live in spite of them all."

I was introduced to Mr. Christie, a highly accomplished man. He showed me the museum; of which, at its first establishment, he had been the chief promoter, and is now one of the directors. There are many curious and valuable pieces of antiquity collected here, which have been found in tumuli, chiefly in the neighbourhood of Vosse; they consist of pieces of armour, sepulchral urns of talc and brass, heads of spears and hammers used before metal was in use, a part of a model of a ship, also found in a tomb. There are also specimens of bits for horses, rings, cross-bows, firelocks, &c. There are above 3,000 coins, commencing from Hacon Edelredste, in the middle of the tenth century, called Edelredste because educated under the eye of Ethelred king of England, at whose court he had long resided, and several coins, I understood, of Harold Haarfager (the fair-haired), about the year 1020. The department of natural history

is as yet very imperfect, and the entire space allotted for the museum is far too small. There is also one very remarkable painting found in an old church near Bergen. It is of the eleventh century, the date being shown by the inscription round each of the eight compartments, into which the whole is divided. These compartments represent the Persian king Chosroes carrying off the holy cross from Jerusalem; the emperor Heraclius attacking and slaying him, recovering the cross, and replacing it on the altar, at which the dead are raised up from the tombs beneath. The colours are very vivid, and the whole forms a strange mixture of apocryphal history and popish legends.

I started at six o'clock on a fine sunny morning on an excursion to the Hardanger, and drove three Norse, 21 English miles, without halting, and a very beautiful drive it was. The road passed through a very wild mountainous country, and on approaching the sea at Hertrujen a glorious view opened upon my sight. The road wound

along the side of the hill, amid forest trees of every description; but birch, ash, hazel, mountain ash, and alder, chiefly prevailed. They clung to every crevice of the rocks, while pines clothed the summits, and overhung the crags; and every now and then extensive views of the various arms of the sea which intersect this wild country, were spread before me; and sometimes I came upon a small tarn or mountain lake, into which a hundred petty streams hurried, brawling down the rocks, and falling in white columns of foam into the still water, where reposing as it were for a while they gather greater force to continue their course to the sea. Here too the sea itself changes its character and appearance, and adapts itself to the singularly wild and beautiful scenery which surrounds it, often appearing, when seen from the summit of some lofty mountain, as a succession of lakes with no visible communication between them, the narrow openings in the rocks which afford a passage for the tide being frequently invisible until you are

near them. But at times the sea asserts her own dignity, and rises in waves of dreadful violence, and indeed the huricanes which not unfrequently visit these valleys are very dangerous to those who happen to be in boats upon the fiords when they occur. My journey on Tuesday from Bergen to the house of the clergyman (Mr. Hammer) at Strandebarm was performed for the first three miles, to Heloyer, in a carriole, then over the fiord to Opstad, afterwards on horseback across a hill to Serwold, which commands a fine view, thence to Shagstad by sea, again by one lake to Aza, and by another to Ovre and Boldstadoren, along the Hollansdal; I then walked with my guide one mile over a rocky hill, named Bergsenden, by a very difficult path, to Strandebarm, being probably as many changes of locomotive power as ever occurred to a traveller in a single day. At Strandebarm my letter from C. Konow procured me a hearty welcome and a good night's lodging. The following morning I went out to look after the fish,

and missed a salmon with a leister. I then put myself in a boat for Jonsdal, two miles from which I shot a duck or two, besides an eider fowl, the latter I could not get. Here two horses were in attendance to take us up Korsdal to Copperen, where I slept in a peasant's house. The simple mountaineer beneath whose roof I rested, believing, like the orientals, that no one can be educated without possessing a knowledge of medicine, told me with much concern, that a friend and relative of his in the village was dangerously ill, and actually insisted on my going to see him before I started. I did so, and his whole family followed me anxiously to the house, expecting great things from my prescriptions. I saw the poor man miserably attenuated, and stretched upon a hard pallet, from which I fear he was destined never to rise again. I did what little I could; I left my loaf of wheaten bread, a luxury they never tasted, and a portion of the tea which I carried in a small leathern pouch, and bade them apply soothing fomentations to ease his sufferings; I knew this

could do no harm at all events. I left the poor folks, tears of gratitude streaming from their eyes, and their tongues eloquent in my praise, which I grieved to think I had so little deserved. Indeed my feeling at the time was one of deep regret, that while I had bestowed so many hours on useless acquirements, and thrown away entirely a still greater number, I had devoted none to that art which might have taught me to alleviate the sufferings of my fellow creatures. At the moment I firmly resolved that when I reached home, I would go through a course of study that might enable me to assist the distressed; but alas! this determination was soon forgotten. For the honour of my countrymen, I am happy to say that there is now in Norway an English medical gentleman who devotes his whole time gratuitously to heal the sick.

From Copperen I proceeded on foot over the heights of Hardanger, and past the glaciers of the Folgefonde, which are very extensive, and reaching, as I was informed,

from east to south-west, about fifty miles, with a breadth of nearly ten miles. The view from the summit of Clipsax was magnificent. Beneath me was a lake bounded on all sides either by glaciers which overhung and stretched into it, or by naked ridges of bare rock, which protruded through their snowy mantle. The lake was partially frozen, and here and there lay huge masses of ice (they might almost be termed icebergs) which had been severed from the surrounding glaciers. The whole required only some wild swans and white bears to complete the arctic scene. A white hare was there, but whether she contained a Lapland witch or not I cannot positively assert; certain, however, it is, that both the charges of my double-barrelled gun were directed against her head in vain, and away she skipped in a most *awful* manner, while I marched on towards another lake, and thence down to the fiord at Blei. My ascent to the height of Hardanger was not only painfully fatiguing, but somewhat perilous, and certainly would not do for

those who have not a steady head and a firm foot. I climbed up nearly perpendicular rocks, with sometimes but very slight projections upon which to rest the feet, and over places which at a distance appeared impracticable; and

> "Where oft the foot was fain
> Assistance from the hand to gain."

Labouring onwards, sometimes among rocks, and sometimes over slippery ice and snow, I at length attained a height of about 5,000 feet. After resting on the summit for some time, I commenced the descent, which was nearly as fatiguing as the ascent had been, for the path was so steep in many places that it was necessary to cut steps to receive the feet. Descending thus for upwards of 4,000 feet, I came to the sea at Blei. I was often surprised in reaching a spot from whence I could espy some rivulet which fell down the rocks, to find that so small a stream had occasioned such a tremendous noise as I had at times heard for a great distance before the cause was

visible; but the echop-regnant hollows which the streams have worn reverberate and increase the sound.

From this place a boat took me to Ullensvang, where I found the good Provst Hertzberg, of whom I had heard so much, and who certainly is a very extraordinary man. He is 73 years of age, but appears 20 years younger, and is the father of a child four years old; he said he had within a short time bathed in the sea, and swam some distance, which at his time of life is somewhat remarkable. He ranks high amongst the persons most distinguished in Norway for science and general knowledge, and is one of the most agreeable men I ever saw, full of animation and mirth, and withal truly good and hospitable,

"Cruda (Deo) viridisque senectus."

He had never tampered with his constitution amid the vices and luxuries of the over-crowded city.

October 7th. The provst showed me a remarkable instance of the effect of a

hurricane which passed along the valley in 1804. It lifted a heavy grave-stone full six feet long and four wide, threw it some distance, and dashed it into several pieces. The same tempest unroofed and threw down several buildings. My host's room is hung with many curious drawings executed by himself of the scenery around, and of the antiquities at Angvaldras, where stand the ruins of a church built by Hacon Haconson, and the grave-stones of five kiemper, besides seven tumuli, in which pieces of woollen clothing have been found.

Farewell to Ullensvang, and farewell to the worthy old Provst and his amiable family. This good and respectable man has undertaken to support the children of his brother, who is lately dead; his heart, indeed, appears to overflow with all the kinder feelings, and some beautiful prayers which he has composed in Latin appeared to me as touching and impressive as any I had ever read.

I bathed this morning for the second time in the Fiord, and after a substantial breakfast, set off in a boat with three rowers to the Voringfoss, the height of which the Provst tells me is between 700 and 800 Norse feet. It certainly is one of the grandest waterfalls I ever beheld, and is placed amidst scenery which is actually terrific. For nearly an English mile before I reached the cataract, my trackless way lay across a barren moorland heath, where birch and stunted firs occasionally disputed the lonely superiority of the heather, and in some degree relieved the uniform monotony and desolation of the scene. The eye receives no intimation of the vicinity of the fall, which is perhaps the loftiest in Europe; and were it not for the tremendous roar of the falling water, the traveller would have no idea whatever of his approach to any river until he reaches the very brink of the precipice which overhangs the cataract, so deeply has the mountain torrent worn its bed amidst the hollow rocks. But when at length the verge of the chasm is attained,

then indeed the sight breaks suddenly upon him in all its lonely sublimity. Three or four ragged pines cling to the scanty covering of soil which barely conceals the rock: beneath one of these I stood, and looked down nearly a thousand feet into the abyss below me, into which a foaming column of water, of the colour of the snow from which it derives its source, was plunging with a deafening and appalling noise, and raging in the turbulent pool beneath, rose again in clouds of white spray, to the height of many hundred feet, bedewing the rocks on either side the chasm with a ceaseless shower.

I can imagine few moments of more awful sensation than those during which the spectator stands leaning over such a cliff, and gazing into the dark ravine down which so vast a body of water is thundering with impetuous violence.

Leaving the Voringfoss and the scanty stream near it, which, gliding like a silvery

thread down the face of the opposite rock, forms a striking contrast to the larger waterfall, I returned to Eidfiord, clambering down the rocky path which we had with much difficulty ascended, in order to gain the height from which we viewed the fall. This ascent is up the rugged side of a mountain, at the extremity of a beautifully wild valley through which the Voring river rushes among rocks and stones. The river enters the valley by an abrupt chasm in the side of the hill, which is not perceptible until you approach close to it, so that you are at a loss to conceive whence the stream issues; its fury has worn the channel along the bottom of this ravine for the distance of an English mile from the foot of the cataract. The ascent is so steep that the summit can only be gained by a number of zigzag traverses. It was dark when I again descended this dangerous pass, and my servant followed the guide to the village where we had engaged him, and near which the river empties itself into a lake, where its waters repose awhile before

they again hurry onward to the sea. Nothing could be more solitary, wild, and grand than the whole of this secluded valley, nor anything more rugged and scanty than the track we had to follow; but of all the features of the scene, one of the most striking was the long and narrow bridge which at a dizzy height stretched athwart the foaming stream. The trunks of the immense pine trees, balanced at either end on rudely constructed props, formed the uncertain footing which rocked visibly beneath the herd that crossed it on their homeward way. No animals except those accustomed to it would venture on such a trembling path. I followed the herd, which passed leisurely along in single file, and it required some nerve to cross the airy bridge without a sense of danger, there being no rail to steady the hand, while the torrent was boiling and roaring far beneath. Andreas and I rowed back to the further end of the lake in a leaky boat, and from thence walked to Eidfiord, where we arrived about 10 o'clock P. M., to the

no small surprise of our hostess, who had not expected us before noon on the following day. She had indeed told me before we started that it was madness to attempt to visit the foss that evening, as we should not reach it before night, the distance being twelve miles: but we proved her to be a false prophet. The next morning at a very early hour I bathed in the sea by starlight. The brilliancy of the phosphoric light which plays upon the waters of these northern seas when agitated, is one of the things which most forcibly strikes every traveller who visits Norway. The water, as I beat it with my arms in swimming, played around me like liquid fire, and its foam sparkled like emeralds.

When ready to proceed, I could not find our boatmen; they also had reckoned on our not returning before noon, and had very contentedly gone to rest for the night, at the house of some friend; we, however, hauled them out at length, and spreading the reindeer skin in the bottom of the boat,

I stretched myself upon it, and gazed with delight on the strange and beautiful scene which surrounded me. It was still dark, and as we passed close below the giant hills, the fantastic outlines of which were alone visible, the oars of our active rowers rapidly sweeping back over the water, showered down ten thousand brilliants into the sea, whilst the furrow which closed behind us glowed with a lambent light.

By the aid of our stout crew, and a light wind which just filled our sail, we soon made our way along the Fiord to Otne, where I met a komedie spiller (actor), who had dropped into the Provst's house at Ullensvang on the same day as I did, and who, being rather short of cash, was delighted to procure a cheap conveyance to Bergen, where he was to appear on the stage in the *solemn* and *tragic* drama of Hugo Grotius *in a trunk !!!* From Otne I and my comic companion rowed along the Hardanger Fiord, basking in the boat under an intensely hot sun, during such a

day as is seldom seen in so northerly a region. The mountains on either side rose abruptly to a great height, while on every ledge of rock were narrow terraces that nourished in their scanty soil those hardy pines and stunted oaks, which, clinging to them, formed one of the chief beauties of this alpine wilderness. A huge fish of the whale species, which, as the boatmen said, had missed its way, was frolicking in the sea, splashing and rolling about its unwieldy length many a rood, and often not far from our boat, naturally recalling to my mind Milton's noble lines.

> "That sea-beast
> Leviathan, which God of all his works
> Created hugest that swim the ocean stream:
> Him haply slumb'ring on the Norway foam
> The pilot of some small night-foundered skiff,
> Deeming some island, oft, as seamen tell,
> With fixed anchor in his scaly rind
> Moors by his side under the lee, while night
> Invests the sea, and wished morn delays."

Since the poet's time, however, the Norwegian pilots appear to have greatly improved in ichthyology: they are now by

no means apt to mistake their black visitors for islands, but know not only what they are, but what they are worth, and, instead of the anchor, fix the harpoon "in his scaly rind" to some purpose; every fisherman has his tackle for killing the whale, and his caldron for boiling the oil, and many of these fish are annually taken.

This night, also, the phosphoric light on the water was most splendidly beautiful. It sparkled round the boat, and hung in silvery dew-drops along the blades of the oars.

CHAPTER XIV.

Mundheim. — Cairns. — Doubtful origin. — Elves. — The printer's devil. — A heavy fall. — Peasants' houses. — Love of finery. — Red deer. — Scarcity of animals in Norway. — Birds. — Adaptation in colour of the coverings of animals to their haunts. — Night attack. — Christiania. — Professor of Mineralogy. — A studio. — Museum. — Travellers' fare. — Hut of a jager or hunter. — The Glommen. — The Aurora Borealis. — Salmon fishing. — "Burning the water." — Costume of the peasants. — Norse weddings. — The bride's wardrobe. — Hereditary ornaments. — The Kors Fiord. — Detention from the weather. — Inhabitants. — Their occupation. — A bride. — Her dress. — Heavy metal. — Head-gear. — Marriage procession. — Mermaidens. — Their nautical accomplishments. — A perilous voyage. — Contrary winds. — Disasters at sea. — Rumours at Bergen. — Kind conduct of Mr. Konow. — Hospitable and simple character of the Norwegians.

On the evening of Sunday the 9th of October I reached Mundheim, having ac-

complished 42 English miles that day in my boat, and slept soundly in a peasant's house by the water-side.

On nearly every Næs, or small promontory on the Hardanger Fiord, are to be seen cairns, or heaps of stones laid upon the rock, which were placed there (as the peasants say) in former times to be used as missiles in battle. But it is much more probable that they mark the burying-place of some renowned robber or sea-king. At a place 10 miles from Mundheim, called Scobbostein Næs, and not long ago, the skeleton of a man was found in a kind of coffin concealed under a heap of such stones.

During this coasting trip I heard many wonderful stories of the elves or mountain sprites of the Hardanger. For instance, of one, a literary elfin I suppose, spilling the contents of his ink-bottle all over a hill in his hurry to escape a thunder-storm, the black stain being still visible; and of another

making a hole in the rock by falling back on the mountain, in consequence of his rope breaking as he was trying to pull an island ashore, &c. This magic indentation is now a noted seat, resorted to by all those who have sufficient courage to approach the spot.

I continued my route along the vale of Mundheim to Skongstei, and afterwards to Eggedalsousen, where I killed some trout; off which, and a brace of ptarmigan, I supped luxuriously at the house of a farmer with whom I took up my abode for the night. At these peasant's houses the best sleeping-room is always the wardrobe; it is a building separate from the farm-house, and not quite so tremendously infested with fleas as the rest of the premises. The number of dresses which these poor people always have, and their predilection for finery, is quite inconceivable. Scarlet and blue are the most usual and favourite colours, the women wearing scarlet stockings and blue petticoats; their boddices and

skirts are both of scarlet, and generally the skirts decorated in front with silver rings, to which they fix long chains, and other ornaments of the same metal.

I had intended to have gone off the road to Lyse Clostre, where there are many red deer, and to have tried to shoot one; but a deluge of rain throughout the day prevented me, and I learnt also that the proprietor, Mr. Foreman, is very strict in preserving them: it appears, however, that the wolves are the worst poachers he has to contend with. It is curious that these animals, which for a period of nearly 60 years had not been known in this part of Norway, have, during the last year or two, returned to the neighbourhood of Bergenstift in great numbers; they are now very troublesome in the winter, descending into the villages to the great dismay of the inhabitants.

One of the most frequent grounds of complaint urged by all travellers through

this country is the absence of living things. This gives an additional loneliness and solemnity to the forest and the waste; but I much doubt whether multitudinous troops of wolves would be considered as an improvement. At present wild beasts of any sort are rarely met with, and even the feathered tribe is scarce. The birds chiefly seen are those of prey, which may in part account for the scarcity of others, and for the want of song amid the woods. Amongst the former I met with were several species of the large and small hawk; falcons; white, grey, and brown owls, and ravens: indeed hawks are very common; and when hawking was a favourite pastime of the kings of Norway, the Dovrefiel was a noted place for taking falcons.

Mr. Jesse and many other naturalists have expatiated on the beautiful provision of Nature in giving animals furs or plumage of the same colour as the haunts they frequent, and the places where they conceal themselves: thus grouse are the colour of

heather, and hares of dry grass; but I was never so forcibly struck with this provident arrangement as in the instance of the ptarmigan (Ryper), in pursuit of which I went early one morning over a part of the Dovrefiel; the similarity of colour is so great, that it is scarcely possible to distinguish them from the grey stones and moss where they are found. In like manner, the foxes on the tops of these mountains are as white as snow. I saw several of them when in search of wild deer. I was not so fortunate as to fall in with these latter animals, although I met with the tracks of many of them; and on more than one occasion the dog I had with me ran upon their scent. After a long day of fruitless toil I slept at night in a sætter, where I had to endure the torture occasioned by the bites of myriads of animalculæ. The place was 4 feet high and 8 feet square. We had the good fortune, however, to find by moonlight some dead brushwood on the moor, which I tied up in a bundle, and carried to the hut to kindle a fire. I rose before daybreak the next morning, and after

raking the embers together, and substituting a stone for a fryingpan, I dressed the remainder of some bacon, the other part of which I had eaten raw the day before. Whilst bathing after breakfast in the river, a large grey earn hovered over my head, and looked at me with a hungry eye. I also saw an ermine, which ran along among the bushes near me as I was coming out of the water; unfortunately my gun was not at hand—just at the moment that I most desired it.

At Christiania I became acquainted with a professor of mineralogy, and in his company saw, to great advantage, the museum of natural history in that city: but the professor himself, and his abode, struck me as being among the chief curiosities of the place. I found the learned gentleman in a low room about 10 feet square, at the end of a dark covered way which was entered from the street, and across which was a gate with broken hinges: the window of this apartment looked on a dirty court-yard lum-

bered up with tubs, an old cart, and a barrel or two of earth containing ore to be analysed. But the room itself was even worse than its situation, and its multifarious contents more difficult to analyse than the ore. It contained in one corner a small dirty bed; and on one side was a bookcase, from the dusty top shelf of which, by mounting upon one of the three old crazy chairs, he handed a book down to me. On another side stood an antique clock, its face covered with figures and divers circles, emblematic, no doubt, of the mystic religion of Norway. On the wall were hanging thermometers, barometers, and hydrometers, and every other sort of *ometer*, numberless, dusty, and mysterious; loadstones with weights attached to them; scales, pendulums, and an endless *et cetera*. Opposite to these was an old bureau full of mineralogical curiosities, among which he showed me an earth previously unknown which he had lately discovered, and a crystal not yet observed by any other person, and such-like marvels. All these were lying in confusion con-

founded, amidst pots and pans, basins, crucibles, receivers, retorts, bottles of every sort, shape, and size, and flanked with glasses of every kind and form: his large table, covered with tablets, manuscripts, and books, cups, funnels, and every denomination of vessels, baffled all description. When I disturbed him he was engaged in analysing some specimens of minerals; but, to my taste, he was by far the most extraordinary specimen of all.

Fancy a little dirty old man, with blear eyes, whose face looked as if it had not been washed any more than his originally white, now dark brown night-cap, since his spectacles were made, and the furrow they had worn upon his nose showed their use had been of some years' standing, and, to augment his beauty, a huge black plaster was stuck on one temple: he wore a dirty shirt crusted with snuff, a gay coloured waistcoat reaching over his hips, a brown coat and trowsers far too wide for his shrunken shanks, while a pair of im-

mense slippers completed the costume of this subterranean octogenarian, or I may say mediterranean prodigy. Despite his rough and unpromising exterior, his manners were not only agreeable, but polished; and he very kindly showed me his collection of minerals, which is valuable and well arranged. He was a pupil of Werner's, and is a man of considerable talent. I should be inclined to think myself not justified in so minutely describing this veteran philosopher, had not experience convinced me that these elevated geniuses are of nothing more proud than of their difference in dress and appearance from ordinary mortals. After exhibiting his treasures, he accompanied me to the public museum, where he showed me a collection of antiquities, found in different parts of Norway: the most interesting were shirts of mail, and iron helmets of the same age. There were also numerous spears, at least 200 swords, claymores, rusty coats of armour, brass ornaments, and rings of gold, which king Haco mentions to have been used in the thir-

teenth century instead of money, huge rings for the finger, a variety of drinking horns, and some altar and other church ornaments of a date earlier than the reformation. Among them were the notched sticks covered with hieroglyphics, which were once used as almanacks, like our tallies in the Exchequer: they were carved with Runic characters, indicating the seasons, and days of the year.

Having seen the wonders of the capital, and paid due thanks to my philosophical guide, I proceeded on my way. Travellers in Norway must be contented with the simplest fare and the most rugged roads. My road lay towards Roraas, and on my journey I lived chiefly on oatcake, herring, barley broth, and potatoes.

On one occasion when I set off on foot from Moklelye towards Vestergaard, it was dark, and the people tried to persuade me not to proceed until the next day, as the road lay through forests, and over moun-

tains and ravines; but I was stubborn, and crossing the Glommen by torch-light in a ferry boat, a mode of travelling more agreeable to describe than to perform, my guide, perhaps to deter me from advancing, told me that a jager had within a few days shot an elk in the forest, and that we should pass near his house, and be sure of good lodging and refreshment. On the strength of this report I left my horses and carriage in the road, and went down a by-path to the hunter's house, taking care to provide myself and my party with good thick sticks in the event of his dogs attacking us outside his door: but, alas! both they and he were absent hunting in the woods. His wife however was at home, and by dint of knocking long and loud we at length beat her up at midnight, and I informed her that I had come with the hope of accompanying her husband to the chase, but as that could not be, I must content myself with purchasing some trophies of his former successes in the forest. Upon this she kindled her lamp, silenced the solitary old hound, who lay

grumbling and growling at our most unseasonable intrusion, and preceded us to her storehouse, where she displayed several very fine skins of elks, bears, wolves, and other animals, and I purchased an elk skin and a pair of elk horns for a mere trifle. The cottage lay in the wood with the Stor Soe below it.

After leaving Roraas, we traced the Glommen till it became a mere mountain-stream, tumbling over rocks and forming continual waterfalls, inconsiderable in size, but as beautiful as when we first saw it a majestic river flowing as clear as crystal from the Myosen Soe. Such is the purity of the water in the Norse rivers, that you may count every pebble at the bottom, even in the rapid streams: they can only be equalled in clearness by the Norwegian nights. I was frequently much struck with the brilliancy of the aurora borealis, but particularly so on the night of the 12th of September, between the hours of nine and ten. At first it appeared like an arch di-

vided by several pale streaks of light, and stretching from east to west in the northern quarter of the heavens: it then became more uniformly bright and broader, and leaving the north quite dark, it shed a bright light over my head, and so strong was the reflection on the sea beneath, that I could count the ships in that direction, although every other part was enveloped in entire darkness. Presently the light advanced southward, the eastern portion encreasing in brilliancy and concealing the stars, so that the Pleiades were barely discernible through the brilliant but transient veil; the eastern part lost its brightness first, and soon after the whole disappeared. But these were not the only northern lights which I encountered; for in my journey by the river sides at night I frequently saw the lights of the people "burning the water," in the same manner as is practised in Scotland, and they call it here taking salmon with the leustre or ustre. The ear at once detects the similarity of the Norwegian term with the word leister or

waester, as the salmon spear is called in Scotland.

Few objects are more exciting to the lover of field sports, or more interesting to the admirer of the picturesque, than the rugged banks of a mountain torrent, lit up by gleaming torches, whilst the foaming stream glitters and sparkles as it bursts amid the rocks here and there at intervals, every object standing out prominent in a blaze of light, whilst at other points of the stream every thing is shrouded in the blackest darkness, the whole forming a scene to which no painter that ever lived could render justice. But I must not allow my sportsman propensities to run away with me, and will only add that the brilliant and gay colours of the Norwegian peasants' dress gives an animation, and even a degree of splendour, to the scene which we cannot boast of in Scotland. Indeed, as I have before remarked, the costume of these people is often very picturesque; between Roraas and Tronjeim it is especially so, the

men often wear a uniform suit of blue from head to foot, with a red border to their cap, and garters of the same colour. At other times you see an entire suit of grey; grey coat, waistcoat, breeches, and stockings, set off by a red cap, from underneath which their long hair hangs down upon their shoulders: they have large plated buttons, and huge shoe-buckles. The women wear their hair tied back off their foreheads under a close cap, quite plain, and made of some dark coloured stuff; these fair ones have often red waistcoats under green or blue jackets, fitting close to the body, and fastened in front with hooks and eyes as far as the waist; the lappets which fall over the hips are slit up and slashed, and beneath is a skirt of green or blue stuff or cloth. In my travels through the country, I had many opportunities of observing not only the variety of the costume of the peasants, but the abundant wardrobe and store of clothing which each family possesses. Although riches are rare, poverty is seldom met with, and the circulation of

money being very small, the wealth of this primitive and interesting race, whose wants are few, consists principally, as in the east, in an abundance of household stuffs.

But it is upon the occasion of a marriage taking place that the display of finery and of simple splendour becomes most conspicuous. At Drifstuen, at the northern base of the Dovrefiel, I had an opportunity of admiring the preparatory arrangements of a Norse wedding, the collection of cheeses and other household stores for the establishment of the young couple, who were about to be married, all of which were the gifts of friends and neighbours, was absolutely prodigious. I was however most struck with the wardrobe department in all its branches, the trousseau portions of which were presented to the bride by all who knew her. Where virtue prevails esteem is general, and the friendly readiness to give mutual assistance, which ought to be one of the strongest bonds of society in every stage, is no where more apparent

than among the primitive peasantry in Norway. Purity of conduct and of morals forms one of the most prominent characteristics of the people of Norway. With them marriage is looked upon as a most solemn ceremony, and at the same time as an event which gives scope for much innocent festivity. Upon these occasions, the friends of both the families being all gathered together, the bride makes her appearance attired in a costume of marvellous magnificence, a part of which is her own property, and a part hereditary in her family, the ornaments being not unfrequently heirlooms which descend from generation to generation, to be used only on those festive and solemn occasions.

A marriage took place in the Hardanger Feld whilst I was there. On this occasion the fair one appeared in a many-coloured dress of singular construction, adorned with beads and other ornaments, and a head-dress of plumes of feathers, arranged like a crown around her head, in a manner more

striking from its novelty than pleasing in its effect, while a profusion of various coloured ribands hung down upon her neck. But it was during a wearisome detention of some weeks in the Kors Fiord that I had the best opportunity of rendering myself conversant with the marriage arrangement of this part of Norway.

The Kors Fiord is the southernmost of the two friths by which vessels can approach Bergen. The navigation is somewhat intricate and dangerous; vessels have to thread their way amidst an archipelago of wild and rocky isles, which form as it were natural outworks or breakwaters to defend the north-west coast of Europe from the fury of a boundless ocean. As this chain of islands is not unlike the Hebrides in its relative position to the larger country, so they are similar in their wild and sterile appearance, and in the niggardness of their soil. Our ship, the Freya, named after the goddess who presides over Friday, and who answers in Northern mythology to our

Venus, the immemorial patroness of sailors, — "sic te Diva potens Cypri," and so forth, though no beauty, certainly asserted her supremacy, by detaining us wind-bound above fourteen days, at the back of a little rocky islet named Bakkesund. To a more wretched place no mortal was ever exiled, and yet there lived there, apparently in great contentment; a solitary old woman, whose husband was almost constantly at sea. I was her guest during this tedious fortnight, and shared her dwelling with her cow, her goat, her cock, and her magpie, the sole inhabitants besides herself of her domain of Bakkesund. Indeed I may say the goat not unfrequently shared my bed, an unwelcome intruder certainly, and an oft-kicked out, rather than an oft-invited guest.

The population of some of the other islands composing the group was rather more numerous, and, as I had but little to do except watching the weather, I roamed from one sterile spot to another, and soon be-

came familiarly acquainted with many of their inhabitants. It was the sea and not the earth which sustained them, for all are fishers, men, women, and children; the net and the harpoon supply the place of the spade, the mattock, and the plough; nor is the Norfolk husbandman more expert in tilling the soil than these contented islanders, in extracting food from the deep. It was on one of these morning calls, that I saw a fair young mermaid, if I may so call one of these sea-maidens, decked in all the glory of her bridal attire, and truly it was a sight well worthy of being seen and recorded.

The young woman's father was one of the wealthiest of these peasants, and counted his possessions by his numerous boats and nets. His ancestors had occupied the same low-built dwelling for many generations, for centuries I might say. However, there was no external show; every thing was humble and lowly, such as might be expected in the hut of a solitary fisherman;

all his pride of family was reserved for, and concentrated in, the display of rude silver ornaments and other antique braveries, in which his daughter was decked out on her marriage-day. His great-grandmother had no doubt worn the self-same dress, save that from time to time further decorations had been added to the massive fabric.

The jerkin or boddice was of scarlet cloth, and fitted to the body, meeting in front only at the waist, and without sleeves; trimmed at the edges above and round the shoulders with many coloured beads strung together, and sewed fantastically on the garment, and giving it a rich and not inelegant appearance. Beneath this she wore a white cambric stomacher, fastened in front with various large silver brooches, resembling rather the huge plated buckles of antique horse furniture, than the wedding ornaments of a youthful bride. In addition to these metallic masses, she had on a necklace or collar of silver that would have weighed down a London alderman,

and over the whole a long and heavy chain of the same metal. Around her arms were armlets above the elbow, and bracelets at the wrist, all of silver, and far more remarkable for the massive solidity of ancient workmanship, than for any of the delicate filigree of their texture. The petticoat, which was of dark-coloured cloth, and over which fell an apron gorgeously though rudely embroidered, was gathered into manifold plaits, and compressed at the waist beneath an immense belt or zone, constructed of large silver rings and clasps; for I know not in what other terms to describe this antique and very cumbrous girdle. The hose and the gloves also were of scarlet, gaily embroidered, and her high shoes were fastened with large buckles of silver.

But the most singular of all was the head-gear of this maiden. A large and lofty crown of brightly polished silver surmounted her head; it rose into various peaks or summits, and was adorned all

around with rows or strings of silver coins and medals, and ornamented with ribands of divers colours, which flowed, like northern streamers, upon her neck and shoulders.

It would not be gallant to bestow so much attention on the dress, and none on the wearer; suffice it however to say, that she was fair and comely, with all the freshness of health, and that best of charms, good-humour. Some strength was required to wear such an attire without fatigue, and this she possessed; for hers was a frame that could ply the oar as easily as the needle, and both accomplishments are indispensably necessary in these wild regions.

After all, and despite these metallic infringements on good taste, it was a fair sight to behold our young bride thus decked out and seated conspicuous in the boat which was to convey her through intricate and narrow channels, to the church where the simple but solemn rite would unite her in holy wedlock, and where vows would be

made which would neither be broken or forgotten. Her kinsmen, all arrayed in their best garbs, rowed the boat in which the bride was seated, and accompanied her in other chaloupes, chanting a merry stave in unison to their oars. The bridegroom I did not see, but I have no doubt he was a miniature Potosi.

I have spoken of the nautical accomplishments of these mermaidens; an instance occurred not long ago in which these were put to the test. Two young peasant girls were accustomed morning and evening to row in a small boat a considerable distance to milk their herd of cattle; one evening, as they were returning in their little open boat, they were overtaken in the Fiord by a heavy squall from the eastward, which at once drove them out to sea. During the night the gale increased, and continued the whole of the next day with unabated violence. The two poor girls, without even a cloak to shelter them from the tempest, and with no other support but that which

their milk pails afforded them, were drifted without sail or rudder to the coast of Scotland. It was by a miracle almost that they reached the shore and landed in safety, though exhausted by hunger and exposure to the cold. Before long an English vessel took back these unintentional wanderers to their own country, and, as may easily be supposed, the astonishment and joy of their friends were unbounded, as they had naturally supposed their destruction to have been inevitable.

Our ship was safely anchored in one of the little rocky bays amidst the labyrinth of islets, but day after day the autumnal gales continued with unabated violence, and I began to fear that I had too long delayed my departure from this dangerous coast. Morning, noon, and night, I watched in vain for a change of wind; still a heavy sea rolled in from the dark south west. Several times we weighed anchor and endeavoured to get beyond the rocky barrier, but were as often compelled to return

to our former station. On one occasion we had well nigh cause to repent our rashness; the combined force of the heavy current and the strong wind having driven us so near the rocks before the anchor brought us to, that nothing but the reflux wave from the deep water at the foot of the perpendicular cliffs saved us from shipwreck.

The fishermen daily brought in fresh rumours of shipwrecks, and reported that the shores were strewed with shattered timbers; and we had soon ocular proof that these disastrous accounts were not devoid of truth. On one occasion we had the satisfaction of assisting a vessel in distress, by sending some hands on board her for a few hours to aid in working the pumps, her own crew being completely exhausted and worn out by their long-continued exertions. Rumours of the loss of the vessel in which I sailed had reached Bergen. It was said that we had been seen in distress on the coast towards Stavanger, and that it was

impossible we could have outlived the night. This report gave occasion to a trait of character which I shall always remember with feelings of gratitude. It was not only said that we had been cast away, but it was asserted that a portion of the wreck had been picked up upon the shore. A gentleman of Bergen, whose acquaintance I made during my brief stay there, and whose warmth of heart must win him the regard and esteem of all who have the good fortune to visit that mart of cordiality and kindness, as well as of merchandise, Mr. Carl Konow, one of the principal merchants of the place, hearing these tidings, sent for two sailors and engaged them forthwith to go with their boat along the shore for not less than 30 miles, and search the coast diligently, and enquire of all the fishermen if they had seen the body of a foreigner who had been wrecked in the Freya. If they could obtain the corpse they were to wrap it up with great care and convey it to Bergen, in order that he might have the last rites performed in a Christian manner to the

stranger, whom during his sojourn in Norway he had every way befriended. I shall never forget the few lines I received from him in reply to my letter, telling him that I was still in the land of the living; they were full of the kindest feelings, and expressed with a warmth and truth which made them doubly pleasing to me.

In bidding farewell to Norway, I am anxious to give my testimony in her favour, worthless as it may be. Every thing I saw, every thing I heard, convinced me that under a rugged exterior she contains much that is estimable and elevated. The climate may be cold, but warm hearts dwell beneath a chilly sky; the winds are boisterous, but the minds of the natives are pure and untainted as their fresh mountain air; the coast is iron-bound, rugged, and inhospitable, but it protects the dwellings of those who are ingenuous, frank, and ever ready to befriend the stranger.

If their national character becomes im-

paired, it will be the fault of foreign contamination; and it will be an indelible shame to England, and all other nations whose civilisation is more advanced, if, by their increased intercourse with this primitive and innocent race, they lower and debase its present high standard of morality.

CHAPTER XV.

Quit Christiansand. — The Skagerack. — Arrive at Gottenburgh. — Its houses and streets. — Trade. — Population. — Start for Copenhagen. — Elsinore. — The prison of Cronenberg, — The citadel of Frederikhaven. — Copenhagen. — Beauty and extent of its buildings. — The Amelien Platz. — Public institutions. — The academy of arts. — Works of Thorwaldsen. — His apartments. — Botanic garden. — The palace of Christiansburg. — Museum of northern antiquities. — Picture gallery. — Museum of natural history. — The church of the Virgin. — Thorwaldsen. — Statues of the Saviour and his Apostles. — Baptismal font. — Statues of Luther and Melancthon. — Castle of Rosenberg. — Cemetery. — The English ambassador. — Christian VIII. — His popularity. — State visit to the theatre. — His troops. — Character of the heir apparent. — Kiel Hamburg. — Review of my wanderings. — Wildness of the country. — Simplicity of the inhabitants. — Their affinity to the English. — Provision for Paupers. — Pernicious effects of finkel. — Conclusion.

On the 21st of September we sailed for Gottenburgh, in the "Express" steamer,

which had brought us from England. The weather was like that of summer, and our voyage of 150 miles across the broad gulph called the Skagerack delightful. On the morning of the 22d we anchored about two miles from the extremity of the fiord, on which Gottenburgh is situated, near the mouth of the large river Gotha. As we rowed up to the town we passed on our left a large bed of rushes, a mile long and half a mile broad, full of wild fowl, where, I was informed, there is excellent shooting. In the lower harbour were several large ships of various nations.

This is the finest city we saw during our tour, and far superior to any in Norway. Instead of wood, which is so general in the latter country, it is entirely built of stone or brick, as in 1810, when a succession of fires occurred, a law was enacted against any other material being used for this purpose. The streets are wide and handsome, several of them have convenient *trottoirs* for foot passengers, and through the centre

of the principal one (Great Harbour Street) runs a canal, which was filled with small boats laden with wood for fuel. The houses are generally four stories high, built with regularity, and with good architectural effect; and the Swedish and German churches are fine buildings. The large square was crowded with peasantry attending the fair, and there was every where an appearance of bustle and activity. Several fine capercailzie were offered me for sale at about three shillings (English money) each.

During the late war, a considerable trade was carried on at Gottenburgh, and I was glad to hear that it had partially revived. The quantity of deals exported is very considerable. The town contains about 20,000 inhabitants, and the number of our countrymen who reside here, and are engaged in commerce, is not less than 200. There is an English consul, and our church service is performed every Sunday, by an English chaplain. I was much

pleased with all that I saw of Gottenburgh during the short time that I remained there.

We sailed for Copenhagen (a distance of 128 miles) in another steamer, the Prins Carl, and were again fortunate in having a pleasant voyage across the Cattegat, the weather continuing fine, and the water smooth. The vessel was much crowded with passengers, principally ladies, all of whom, after the supper tables were removed, slept without undressing, on mattresses on the floor of the chief saloon; and it was to us rather a novel sight to see the fair assembly thus spread out far and wide, as we passed to our berths in the cabin below.

We reached Elsinore, a small town beautifully situated, early on the morning of the 23d, and as we passed by the classic ground I took Shakspeare out of my pocket, and read Hamlet, as I was in duty bound to do. Near Elsinore is the castle and fortress of Cronenberg, an imposing

looking edifice, with a high tower. It is now used as a prison, and is interesting to an Englishman from the circumstance of its having been the place of imprisonment of the innocent but unfortunate Princess Caroline Matilda, sister of our king, George III. It commands a fine view of the sound, or roadstead, which extends the whole way to Copenhagen, a distance of twenty-five miles. We anchored close to the quay of the city, after passing on the left the citadel of Frederikhaven, also called the Trekroner, a low five-sided battery, of immense strength, which is considered impregnable. Our luggage was landed at the custom house, but passed without much examination, and we soon found comfortable quarters at a large hotel called the Stadt Hamburg.

Copenhagen*, although a dull court and capital, in comparison with many others in

* Copenhagen stands on the eastern part of the island of Zealand, twenty miles to the south of the sound leading to the Baltic. It contains a population of 100,000 souls.

Europe, may justly claim to be considered a fine city, from the beauty of its palaces, the extent of its squares, the width and length of some of its streets, and the handsome appearance and regularity of its houses, many of which, like those in Paris, are of great height.

Good frequently comes out of evil, and to the very destructive fires which ravaged this city during the last century may its present regularity in a great degree be attributed, as in consequence of those disastrous events a law was enacted prohibiting the erection of any buildings, but those formed of brick or stone.

The public edifices are in general on a grand scale, but the finest part of Copenhagen is a large open octagonal space called the Amalien Platz, containing several palaces and public buildings, one of the former being the residence of the king, and another that of the prince royal. On

one side of the platz is a fine equestrian statue of Frederick V.

The situation of the city is low and flat, and the Baltic in consequence frequently overflows, and causes destructive inundations. The port (called Christianshaven) is spacious, and capable of containing 500 ships.

It is not my intention to give an account of the royal library, the exchange, the tapering spire of one church, or the round tower, with an observatory attached to it, of another; nor will I dilate on the university, founded in the fifteenth century, well endowed, and having at the present time many celebrated professors, and 700 students; neither do I intend to touch on the Jews' synagogue, the house of correction, the theatre, the grand hotels, and numerous coffee houses, where cards and billiards are played, in humble imitation of the Palais Royale. These and

various other objects, some of which are highly deserving of notice, the traveller will find correctly and well described in Murray's "Hand Book," or he may put himself under the guidance of an erudite laquais de place. I shall confine myself to a few passing remarks on those things which appeared to me to be the most interesting.

We first went to the academy of arts (formerly the palace of Charlottenburgh), to see the studio of the celebrated Thorwaldsen. The most beautiful work now there is the statue of Ganymede holding a cup to an eagle. It is beyond all praise. The bird, in particular, is inimitable; and its plumage has the feathery lightness of reality. Mars, with Cupid at his side, although a work of great merit, I did not admire so much; but there is a noble figure of Hercules, and a most magnificent lion, of colossal size, copied from one at Rome; there are also several fine casts from bassi relievi. We were shown the apartments

occupied by this first of all living sculptors, when he visits his native city. In his bedroom are several pleasing paintings, by modern Italian artists, and in the next apartment to it is a small but choice collection of amphoræ, funereal lamps, and various articles of domestic use, found at Pompeii. Adjoining to this palace is the botanic garden.

We next went to the palace of Christiansburg, one of the largest in Europe, and built originally, at an enormous expense, as a royal residence, but it is not at present occupied by the court. One end of it contains the museum of northern antiquities, the most extensive and perfect in the world, and one of the objects best worthy of the traveller's attention during his sojourn in the Danish capital. It is enriched by many thousand specimens discovered in Jutland, Norway, and Greenland, and occupies no less than seventeen rooms. The collection consists of arms, coats of mail, ornaments, every kind of implement of

ancient cookery, weapons of all descriptions, made of stone, before the use of iron, clubs, axes, swords, hammers, funereal urns found in tumuli, and filled with human bones, and an endless et cetera. The curator is a gentleman of great antiquarian skill, and is extremely anxious to afford all necessary information to the visitor. In another suite of rooms in the same building is the royal collection of pictures; they are very numerous, but I remarked only a few of distinguished merit: amongst these were a Salvator Rosa, representing Jonah preaching to the Ninevites; the Judgment of Solomon, by P. P. Rubens; a Winter scene, by Ostade; St. Catherine, by Leonardo da Vinci; and a Christ, and a Madonna, by Carlo Dolce. In an adjoining gallery are the celebrated bassi relievi, by Thorwaldsen, of Alexander taming Bucephalus; they were sent by the sculptor from Rome, and are of transcendent merit.

The museum of natural history is rich in its collection of stuffed birds, and also of

fishes, insects, and reptiles from all parts of the world. The most beautiful of the birds are the hawks, falcons, owls, and waders, of all which there is a great variety. There are also many seals from Greenland, and a fine specimen of the walrus.

In the royal collection of minerals are some brilliant specimens of pure virgin silver, from the mines of Konsberg; some of the masses are of considerable size.

The church "of the Virgin" (vor Frue kirke), which was almost destroyed by the bombardment of the English in 1807, has been rebuilt, and, with the exception of its ill-shaped tower, is a handsome edifice. Over the portico is a beautiful alto relievo, by Thorwaldsen, representing St. John preaching in the wilderness. The interior of the church is quite plain, but admirably proportioned; it contains statues of ten of the twelve Apostles, in marble, by Thorwaldsen, eight feet high, and the remaining two, of Andrew and Judas, in plaister. That of St. John is

considered to be one of the finest; the benign expression in the countenance is indeed admirable. At the principal altar is a colossal statue, eleven feet high, in marble, of Christ, by the same celebrated artist. Our Saviour is represented in the act of blessing the people, and saying, "Come unto me, ye that labour and are heavy laden." There is a heavenly look in the face, the hair hangs gracefully over the shoulders, the attitude is easy and natural, and the drapery light and elegant. This noble piece of sculpture is placed in a niche with a gilded back ground, in order to increase the effect, but there is a want of sufficient light for it and for all the rest of these invaluable works. The artist also has been unfortunate in the selection of his material, the blue veins in the marble being conspicuous in nearly the whole of them. The baptismal font represents an angel kneeling, and holding a large shell; a beautiful idea, and admirably expressed. The face is lovely, and the hair is confined by a wreath of flowers. The

plumage of the wings,—the attitude,—in a word, the whole effect of this beautiful figure, rivetted us to the spot for a considerable time, and made us pronounce this the master-piece of the great Danish sculptor. We gazed on it again and again, and always with fresh pleasure, and lingered until the curtain by which it is protected, was replaced, and hid it from our view. I procured a good engraving of this exquisite work. Near the entrance, and over two boxes which are destined to receive the contributions of the charitable, bassi relievi are placed, inscribed with the words, " Remember the poor." One represents maternal love—a female carrying one child, whilst another runs by her side; the other, an angel, with his hand resting on the head of a young boy. Statues of Luther and Melancthon are intended to occupy the two vacant niches in this church, which contains no sculpture by any other hand than that of Thorwaldsen. There is an English chapel here, which we attended, but the congregation did not exceed twenty

persons in number, and several of those were Danes.

The castle of Rosenberg was built by Inigo Jones; its gardens near the north gate of the city are open to the public, and form an agreeable promenade. I took a walk of two miles beyond the gate, and visited the public cemetery, a large piece of ground covered with graves, each of which was strewed with flowers. It is nicely kept, and I saw many groups of persons contemplating the funereal urns of their departed relations and friends.

The environs of Copenhagen are for the most part very flat, and offer no picturesque beauty. We, however, enjoyed one good view from the only high ground in the neighbourhood, near the castle of Fredericksberg.

We dined with our ambassador, Sir Henry W. Wynn, who through all changes of administration at home has held his appoint-

ment as our representative at the court of Denmark for the long period of seventeen years. He received us with much courtesy, at his country-house, about three miles from the city, the gardens of which are laid out in the English style, and command a fine sea view.

His present majesty, Christian VIII., is about sixty years of age. He ascended the throne three years since, possesses much natural good sense, and is deservedly popular. In early life he resided for some time in England, and is said to have profited from what he saw there and in other countries, and to govern with justice and moderation. We saw him go and return from the theatre in state, accompanied by his Queen. The household troops forming the body-guard are fine-looking and well-appointed men; on state occasions they wear handsome cuirasses, and are maintained at a considerable expense to the country; their commander is a Danish nobleman. The king was well received as he passed

through the streets, which were lighted by torches, and every house illuminated. The pageant was rendered more interesting to the public from his Majesty having recently recovered from a serious illness. The carriage was surrounded by a number of ragged boys, holding torches close to the windows, and expressing their loyalty by making the most outlandish noises imaginable. This detracted not a little from the splendour of the scene.

The heir apparent does not bear a good character. He was banished for some years from the capital, for having in a state of intoxication drawn his sword in the presence of the late king. He has been twice married, but has no children; his first wife he divorced. It is to be feared that whenever he ascends the throne he will prove a despotic ruler, and be surrounded by his former ill associates. At the present moment, therefore, it is the anxious wish of the public that the reigning monarch may be induced to grant a new constitution, so fixed

and well secured that it shall not be in the power of his successor to alter it.

Embarking from Copenhagen in a good sized steamer, we reached Kiel in about eighteen hours, a town beautifully situated in a bay of the Baltic, and after being detained there two hours for the examination of our luggage, a double-bodied and cumbrous vehicle, called an eilwagen (or diligence), took us in ten hours more to Hamburg, a distance of sixty-five miles.

"Hic finis chartæque viæque."

And now, in laying down my pen, how many, and how agreeable are the recollections of the scenes and events which I have attempted to describe. All the little dangers, discomforts, and inconveniences inseparable from a wandering over these primeval and unfrequented districts are forgotten, or only remembered with a smile, while the novelty, excitement, and freshness, all, in short, that was pleasurable,

remains indelibly fixed on the mind. Nor were the occasional hardships and privations which we endured during our tour without their compensating advantages. They added a sort of dignity of adventure, a raciness, to the events of the day, which is wanting in the macadamized highways of more civilised countries, and amidst the lazy luxuries of splendid hotels. If Norway and her rude children lack somewhat of the indulgences of civilisation, they are at least free from the concomitant vices by which it is too dearly purchased. They are a primitive people, living among themselves, and preserving their national characteristics. To an Englishman, these descendants of the bold Northmen, by whom Great Britain, France, Italy, and Sicily were over-run, must always be objects of interest, although, in the changes and chances of events, those nations whom they once subdued now rule the ascendant, and scarcely know the land of the forest and fiord, the frozen womb of nations from whence their conquerors

emerged. Commerce, literature, politics, wars in every quarter of the globe, and a thousand other causes of change, have modified the English character, and grafted on the Norman stock both blossoms and fruit which have been denied to the original tree; the off-set has been planted in a more favourable soil, and has expanded into a new and wider growth, but still we trace with pleasure amongst the Norwegians the fundamental principles of the English character; they are kind, honest, loyal, hospitable, and sincere; industrious, hardy, and independent; and, what is still more important, and still higher to be praised, they are deeply and sincerely imbued with sentiments of religion, and love of personal liberty, those best foundations of all moral and civil virtues.

In this country, all those who from age, infirmity, or accidental causes are unable to earn their own livelihood are supported by the public, and spared the

misery and degradation of beggary. Mendicity is scarcely known in Norway, and the traveller is consequently freed from one of the greatest drawbacks to the pleasures of continental excursions, especially in Roman Catholic countries, where the well-meant but mistaken charity of the convents holds out a premium to idleness. None who have been much in the south of Spain or Italy can ever forget the eternal and unceasing nuisance of importunate paupers, who are attracted by the stranger's purse as flies are to honey, and whom it is impossible to avoid or satisfy, for their name is legion. Such scenes of human debasement and misery never pain the eye in Norway; we scarcely saw a single mendicant during our whole tour.*

* Although Norway is more free from beggars than most other countries, yet it must not be supposed that poverty and pauperism do not exist in it. Here, as in other lands, there are many who are needy and helpless; their number varies greatly from year to year, according to the productiveness of the harvest, and still more of the fisheries, which afford the principal

The besetting sin of the Norwegians is intemperance; the cheap and pernicious finkel, which, like whiskey among our highlanders, is within the reach of the poorest, is the poison of the north. Yet, injurious as is the excessive use of this spirituous liquor to the Norwegians, it is less so than it would be elsewhere. The necessity of some sort of stimulant would appear to be more urgent in the gloomy, wintry north, than in the milder regions of the south; nor is the morale of the

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sustenance of the lower ranks. In regard to the agricultural population, great activity and frugality in some degree make up for the unproductiveness of the soil. The storthing has passed numerous laws respecting the poor. In the towns and districts there are committees which estimate the income of each resident; and every one, in proportion to his means, is made to contribute his share to the fund for their support, the ratio of the payment increasing with the amount of the payer's income. A tax also is levied on landed estates, towards the maintenance of the poor, and there are many charitable institutions for aged paupers, the funds for the support of which are principally derived from the bequests of charitable persons. These establishments very closely resemble our English almshouses.

natives so much corrupted by their indulgence in this vice as might be imagined. Scattered over the land, and living far apart and few between, the Norwegians have not the same facilities and temptations to other excesses which the crowded vicious city offers to those who have put into their mouths that which robs them of their senses. The fresh cold air of the mountains does wonders also in dispelling the intoxicating fumes of their darling beverage, and health is the characteristic of the land; health to those who are born and live there, and health also to the care or disease-worn traveller who comes among them. To a mind ill at ease, the soothing and invigorating effects of a Norwegian ramble are almost magical; the mind, occupied with a succession of new and delightful objects, cannot turn back on itself, or let the iron of corroding thoughts eat into the soul; "early to bed and early to rise," a spare diet, exercise, and constant living in the open air, nerve the frame, and give a new tone and

vigour both to body and mind; and while wandering amid the lonely majesty of these mountains, where no sound breaks the silence, save the distant cataract, whilst watching the summer start into life, and recreating in the long and glorious days when the sun scarcely sets; who can regret the thick, the close pent city, who but would feel himself elevated in his own estimation, by being thrown on his own resources, and forced to rely upon and call into action all those energies which hitherto, in a life of indolence and tranquil comfort, have remained dormant and undeveloped?

THE END.

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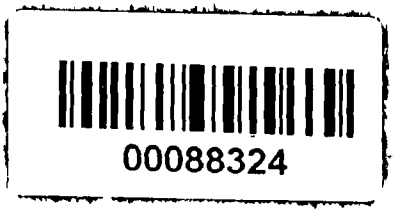
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